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Illinois repeals consent law for HIV antibody testing

Community, angry over Gov. Jim Thompson's approval of measure, claims powerful PAC of doctors "bought" exemption from "informed, written consent" requirement

By Mike Friedman

CHICAGO — Illinois Gov. James (Big Jim) Thompson signed into law Sept. 2 a measure exempting physicians from obtaining "written, informed" consent for HIV antibody testing from their patients. The measure overturns part of a law passed last year — the only one of its kind in the nation — requiring anyone ordering an HIV antibody test to first obtain written consent. Elimination of written, informed consent makes it possible for physicians to perform an HIV antibody test at any time, without the knowledge of the person being tested.

Upon signing the bill, which was authored by Republican State Rep. Penny Pullen (well known as one of the homophobic members of the Reagan AIDS Commission and sponsor of a package of AIDS-phobic bills in Illinois last year) the Governor flew off to China for a three-week visit apparently to deflect criticism from lesbian/gay and AIDS activists. According to Illinois Lesbian and Gay Task Force (ILGTF) Legislative Director Tim Drake, Pullen's amendment exempting physicians from written consent was inserted into H.B. 4005 (a multi-faceted AIDS measure) two days before the legislative session was supposed to end, preventing opponents from mobilizing against the amendment. H.B. 4005 also allows health care workers and paramedics to sue to force HIV antibody testing on people whose bodily fluids they have come in contact with. The bill will also increase the number of school officials who may be told when a child with AIDS attends Illinois public schools.

The Illinois State Medical Society (ISMS), a group representing 17,000 doctors statewide, has been a leading opponent of written consent legislation and was a backer of H.B. 4005. ISMS argued that written consent requirement was an infringement on the "candor, trust and one-on-one counseling and discussion" involved in the doctor-patient relationship. ISMS also claimed that informed, written consent was somehow a barrier "to stopping the spread of this deadly, infectious virus."

The only supporter of H.B. 4005 besides ISMS was the Illinois Hospital Association. Opponents included IGLTF, the Illinois Civil Liberties Union, the Illinois Nurses Association, nearly every AIDS service organization in the state, and the Illinois Director of Public Health, Bernard Turnock — a member of the Thompson cabinet. Turnock publicly urged Thompson to veto the bill.

Harry Springer, President of ISMS said the group supported the bill because "AIDS should be treated like any other disease. And for no other treatment or test has [the] government mandated signing a specific, written document." ILGTF's Drake

disagreed, saying "AIDS *isn't* like any other disease. Springer's statement underlines exactly why physicians shouldn't be exempt from written, informed consent. HIV tests have striking effects on employment and devastating effects on people's ability to get health insurance. Doctors don't understand this and Springer is at the head of their list," he said.

Paul Adams of the group Chicago for AIDS Rights (C-FAR) said, "The people who are behind this, including Rep. Pullen, are attacking the confidentiality legislation because they are upset that their agenda of mandatory testing and quarantine has failed."

ISMS literature claims that repealing mandated, written consent will not allow for "so called 'secret testing' that doesn't provide patients with the results or appropriate counselling." But the literature fails to address the issue of how patients can keep from being tested against their will. The new law makes no provision for requiring any sort of consent, relying instead on what the ISMS describes as "a doctor's duty to discuss treatment and testing with patients." This position was echoed by Thompson, whose statement on the issue leaves confidentiality and consent to a physician's "common decency" and "the canons of their profession." But Drake countered, "if it's such a part of their medical ethics, they should have no problem putting it in writing."

The Governor's press spokesperson, Jim Bray, said that any person who asks not to be tested cannot be tested. But Drake pointed out that it would be extremely difficult to take a physician to court since the case would put the patient's word against a physician's. He added that the only way to hold a physician accountable is to put it in writing, "and that's exactly what 'informed, written consent' is."

"Buying" the governor

The ISMS claims that AIDS has been treated with "kid gloves" by "some public policymakers and special interests." But many lesbian/gay and AIDS activists argue instead that the ISMS bought the votes of legislators and the governor. "It's difficult to hear Springer talk about 'special interests' when his Political Action Committee [PAC] has given \$415,000 to state politicians — including Gov. Thompson — in the last year," Drake commented. ISMS is the largest PAC in the state.

In response to the governor's signing H.B. 4005, ILGTF, and C-FAR will co-sponsor "Who Owns Jim Thompson? Day" Sept. 26. The day will commence with a noontime picket of the State of Illinois

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Jean Vallon

WITH WINGS

Women and Disabilities

Quilt controversy quelled

4,000 phone calls to the Park Service result in quick action to get permit for the NAMES Project display on the Ellipse

By Chris Bull

WASHINGTON — After several days of negotiations with the National Park Service, The NAMES Project on Sept. 20 was granted a permit to display the AIDS Memorial Quilt on the Ellipse Oct. 7-10. The permit had been denied just four days earlier when the NAMES Project was informed by the Park Service that the permit had been given instead to the National Millennium Society, a group of Ukrainian Christians. The Park Service decision touched off a storm of protest among lesbians and gay men across the country, and within 24 hours of its announcement over 4,000 phone calls flooded the Park Service headquarters.

The dispute was finally settled when the National Millennium Society agreed to move to the nearby Lincoln Memorial. The

"It could have been a clerical error or it could have been motivated by politics"

NAMES Project agreed to allow the group to borrow its stage and sound equipment and the Human Rights Campaign Fund agreed to finance advertising to announce the changes in location for the Society's event.

Dan Sauro, spokesperson for the NAMES Project, credited "the thousands of people who called the Park Service and made a stink. The NAMES Project is very grateful for the support." Sauro said the Park Service had refused to meet with the NAMES Project until it received the flood of phone calls of protest and pressure from several members of Congress.

When asked whether he thought the Park Service action was politically motivated, Sauro said, "It could have been a clerical error or it could have been motivated by politics. It is difficult for us to tell."

Sandra Alley, spokesperson for the Park Service, blundered what she termed the "mix-

up" on the NAMES Project. She explained that on Feb. 18 the NAMES Project was granted a permit for the Washington Mall. But in July the Park Service informed the NAMES Project that the Mall would be undergoing renovation and would be unavailable. "We offered several sites. But the NAMES Project was very unclear about what it wanted. When they finally decided we had already given away the Ellipse," said Alley. According to Sauro, the NAMES Project had already been assured of the permit for the Ellipse when it was informed of the problem with the Mall. He said the alternative sites were too small for the 375,000 square foot Quilt.

Alley said politics were not involved in the decision and that the Park Service "treats all applications in exactly the same manner. We grant over 1400 permits per year. How could we be picking and choosing between them all?"

Michael Iskowitz, a member of Sen. Edward Kennedy's (D-Mass.) Council on AIDS, said "because there was a similar problem last year I am very suspicious. The Park Service did, however, seem interested in working out a solution after they received pressure." Iskowitz, who participated in the negotiations, said Kennedy's office received over 400 calls.

Note: The display of the Quilt in Washington will require the efforts of many volunteers, who all need to receive training. If you are interested in volunteering, but are unable to attend the Oct. 7 training in Washington, there will be training sessions held in Boston at the University of Massachusetts/Boston campus at the following times: Sat., Oct. 1, 1:00 pm.; Sun., Oct. 2, noon; Wed., Oct. 5, 7:00 pm. If you are unable to go to Washington, but would still like to participate, there is much to be done locally. For more information about volunteering, call (617) 451-9003.

□ filed from Boston

Quote of the week

"I stand for anti-bigotry, anti-Semitism, anti-racism. That's what drives me."

— *Presidential candidate George Bush, as quoted in the Boston Globe. And another gem from last week's stumping: "I want to be sure that everybody who has a job wants a job." After screwing up on civil rights and economic quotes, Bush even gaffed on his favorite issue — patriotism — and butchered the Pledge of Allegiance. After claiming that the flag is a symbol of the United States of America, he followed up with "and to the liberty for which it stands, one nation, under God with freedom and justice for all. And let's never forget it." Right, George.*

Gay man wins an equal place in the sun

SAN FRANCISCO — A gay man from Sebastapol, Calif., has won a vacation and \$2,500 in cash in a lawsuit that charged a Florida and Tennessee company with discrimination and fraudulent advertising.

Last summer, Vacation America and Trans World Vacations notified Ed Patrick that he won his choice of a Florida or Mexico vacation. But then they refused to let Patrick and his family partner of seven years participate. National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA), a public-interest law firm based here, filed suit in U.S. District Court on Patrick's behalf.

"The settlement was a total victory," said Leonard Graff, legal director of NGRA. "They will now give Ed a vacation, \$2,500 in cash and have agreed to not discriminate against lesbians and gay men in any of their programs. In addition, any other person turned down because of their marital status or sexual orientation can now receive a vacation."

□ John Dooley

Pro-choice campaign seeks airtime on local cable systems

BOSTON — The Committee for Reproductive Freedom (CRF) has begun a pro-choice media campaign on local cable systems to increase the visibility of the pro-choice position, which insists on reproductive rights for all, including lesbians and gay men. CRF has made available to the public selections from its pro-choice video library, which includes educational videos that explore such topics as poor women's lack of access to abortion and the impact of parental consent laws on minor's access to abortion. CRF hopes to encourage individuals and groups to arrange for community access cable TV viewings across Massachusetts.

To commemorate the Oct. 3, 1977 death of Rosie Jimenez, the first known victim of the Hyde Amendment (which cut federal Medicaid funds for abortion), CRF plans a day of tabling in the Greater Boston area on Sat., Oct. 1.

For more information, call (617) 782-1056.

□ Marc Stein

Chicago registers 10,000 new les/gay voters

CHICAGO — Lesbian and Gay Voter Impact '88 a project of Impact, Chicago's Lesbian and Gay Political Action Committee, has registered 10,000 new voters in the city, with a goal of another 10,000 by the close of Illinois registration on Oct. 3.

This project has been the most successful voter registration effort in the entire state and has caused several politicians to sit up and take notice. In the recent defeat of the Lesbian and Gay Rights Ordinance in the Chicago City Council, several opponents switched their votes, including Edmund Burke, who said that he voted for the ordinance on the strength of new les/gay

voters on the rolls. Burke is considered a likely candidate in the special mayoral election scheduled for Spring, 1989. The election will decide the permanent replacement for the late Mayor Harold Washington, who died in November, 1987.

Impact spokesperson Terry Cosgrove said that after the close of registration, the project will begin coordinating a computerized voter database which will ultimately contain 30,000 names, in order to do spot mailings and improve get-out-the-vote efforts for candidates favorable to lesbian and gay issues.

□ Mike Friedman

Writers to be honored by HRCF

BOSTON — Writers Barbara Smith and Cindy Patton are among the well-known lesbian and gay activists/scribes to be honored next month at the 1988 New England Human Rights Campaign Fund Dinner. The Oct. 21 event — a gala affair with a \$150 per person price tag — will be held at Boston's Park Plaza Hotel. This year's seventh annual New England dinner will recognize writers whose work has advanced the cause for human rights, gay liberation, feminism and equality, according to a press release from the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF).

Most of the dinner's proceeds will benefit HRCF, a political action committee which backs Congressional candidates based on their support for lesbian and gay issues, and lobbies Congress in the fight against AIDS and for enactment of anti-discrimination



Barbara Smith

laws. Similar HRCF fund-raising dinners are also held in New York, Washington and Los Angeles. A quarter of the money raised from the Boston dinner will go to Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) and the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus (MGLPC), and some funds will be allocated to lesbian/gay groups in Maine, New Hampshire and Rhode Island.

Along with Smith, co-founder of Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press, and Patton, author of *Sex and Germs* and a former *GCN* editor, honored writers include journalist Fran Lebowitz and novelist Armistead Maupin. Other award recipients include the Strafford County Family Planning Clinic in New Hampshire and Frances Peabody, an 85-year-old woman who co-founded The AIDS Project in Portland, Maine.

□ Elizabeth Pincus

U.N. hits sodomy laws but offers weird theory on gay behavior

UNITED NATIONS — In a recent report on social issues, the United Nations (U.N.) recommended that all sexual practices between consenting adults be tolerated if they are conducted in private and do not violate public decency. It is the first time that the U.N. has spoken against sodomy laws, reports the *Philadelphia Gay News*.

But the U.N. report also says that fewer women would be lesbians if men treated them more equitably and fairly. And fewer

men would be gay if they were not uptight about their sexual performance with women.

□ Don Verfaillie

Ending men's violence

BELLINGHAM, Wash. — BrotherPeace is calling all men to publicly protest men's violence against women, against children, against each other, and against the earth on Oct. 15. BrotherPeace is organized by the National Organization for Changing Men, an organization self-described as male positive, pro-feminist, and gay-affirmative. This will be the third consecutive year for the BrotherPeace International Day of Actions to End Men's Violence. Last year, actions were held in 56 cities and endorsed by nearly 60 organizations, including *GCN*.

In addition to actions to end rape, battery, homophobia, and militarism, among other things, BrotherPeace is also calling for an internationally coordinated three minutes of silence to recognize women who have died from, or suffered and survived, men's violence. The silence will begin at 4:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time. During this time a drumbeat every 15 seconds will express the incidence of battery against women in this country.

Contact BrotherPeace at P.O. Box 4082, Bellingham, WA 98227, (206) 647-0766; and the National Organization for Changing Men at 794 Penn. Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15221, (412) 371-1545.

□ Jennifer Fechner

Lesbian named to Dem National Committee

LOS ANGELES — For the first time ever, an out lesbian has been named to the governing body of the National Democratic Party. Lesbian activist Jean O'Leary was appointed on July 22 by Michael Dukakis to serve as an at-large member of the Democratic National Committee.

This is not the only first for O'Leary, according to the *Seattle Gay News*. During the Carter Administration, she organized the first and only meeting of lesbian and gay leaders ever held in the White House. In 1977, O'Leary was the first openly gay person to be appointed to a Presidential Commission when Jimmy Carter appointed her to the National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year. Carter subsequently named O'Leary to his National Advisory Commission on the Status of Women. For the past seven years, O'Leary has been Executive Director of the National Gay Rights Advocates, a non-profit legal organization that promotes civil rights for lesbians and gay men.

Responding to news of her appointment, O'Leary said, "It clearly highlights the difference between Gov. Dukakis and an administration that has turned its back on the gay community for eight years."

□ Jennifer Fechner

AIDS not a priority for U.S. rockers

BOSTON — Although several pop stars have readily lent their talents to the fight against AIDS, rock performers have not been so forthcoming. According to the *Boston Globe*, a recent search for a headliner at an AIDS benefit scheduled for Boston Garden Sept. 26 took three months. The *Globe* pointed out that although rock performers have been quick to jump on the bandwagon for such causes as hunger, anti-apartheid, and homelessness, many rock performers do not want to be associated with AIDS.

"We sent letters to over 40 artists. [The rock band] Boston... was the only major act to respond affirmatively," said Neil Jacobsen, an agent with Tea Party Concerts. The benefit, featuring the group Boston will be for the AIDS Action Committee and will also feature the local band Treat Her Right. Tickets are \$22.50.

According to the *Globe*, the frustration

with finding acts for the benefit coincides with an article in the current issue of the rock magazine *Spin*. The article, "Silence Equals Death," chastises the rock community for its lack of support of the AIDS issue. The article asserts rock performers avoid the issue because of the "fear of disrupting the myth of the classic rock 'n' roll lifestyle revolving around sex and drugs. Record companics, managers and agents who do not want to upset the money machine and change their artists' images have managed to undermine every single attempt to bring together rock musicians for a major fundraiser."

Rock musicians in Britain, including Paul Weller, Alison Moyet and Tom Robinson, have performed to fight AIDS. Fear of associating with AIDS, sometimes called "AFRAIDS," seems to be a U.S. rock phenomenon.

□ Paul-David Wadler

New Alliance Party candidate to address conference

WASHINGTON — New Alliance Party Chariperson and candidate for president Lenore Fulani will be one of the featured speakers at an Oct. 7 conference in Washington entitled "The AIDS Virus Doesn't Discriminate, But Society Does!" The conference, sponsored by The Committee to Pass the National AIDS Bill of Rights and endorsed by The New Alliance Party, will also include the following speakers: Jessie Fields, national co-chair of lesbian and gay organizing with NAP; Susan Massad, medical director of New Alliance Community Services; and Harold Moore, New Alliance Party vice-presidential candidate. Look for an expose about Fulani's campaign and the New Alliance Party in an upcoming issue of *GCN*.

□ Jennie McKnight

Carolina paper sued for placing ad

RALEIGH, N.C. — The corporation that owns *The Front Page*, a North and South Carolina gay and lesbian newspaper, is being sued for damages by a man who claims he was libeled and slandered when someone placed a classified ad in that paper's personal section without his consent.

Publisher Jim Baxter said "A substantial financial judgment against the paper would force me to declare bankruptcy." Legal expenses to fight the lawsuit already jeopardize the paper's existence, *The Front Page* reports.

The plaintiff called the paper in January and explained that he did not place the ad, which was removed from subsequent issues. In February, Baxter received a letter from John W. Kittredge, the attorney representing the man who called and complained about the ad. "The advertisement has caused Mr. [name left out] and his wife tremendous embarrassment and anxiety. [They] have been victimized by dozens of disgusting telephone calls from homosexuals, as well as numerous offensive letters," the letter read.

John Boddie, attorney for *The Front Page*, wrote to Kittredge on Feb. 23, saying, "While we understand your client's concern, it is my opinion that if your client has a claim, it is against the person who forged his signature on the release sent to my client's newspaper."

The ad read "GWM, 28, weightlifter, very clean, wishes to share letters and time with a GWM 18-50. I am considered to be very cute by most GM's. I am simply tired of the cruising scene." Baxter said, "In nine years of publishing *The Front Page*, there seems to be a general trend in that a personal advertisement will receive a response in kind. Polite ads beget polite responses. It is unclear whether the letters and phone calls received by this man were sexually explicit or vulgar, or whether he and his wife consider any sort of contact with a homosexual 'disgusting' by definition."

□ Don Verfaillie

NEWSNOTES COMPILED BY
JENNIE MCKNIGHT

Boston queers show electoral clout in state primaries

Some gay-backed candidates triumph, but Bulger retains homophobic hold on Senate

By Elizabeth Pincus

BOSTON — The strength of the lesbian and gay vote was clearly evidenced in the Sept. 15 state primary elections, according to spokespersons from local lesbian/gay political groups. Despite record low voter turnout across Massachusetts, several pro-gay candidates swept to victory with the help of well-organized lesbian/gay constituencies. However, in the race most closely watched by queer politicians, incumbent Senator William Bulger soundly defeated progressive challenger Stephen Holt to retain his seat — and his homophobic reputation — in the First Suffolk district.

“Nonetheless, I think Holt’s campaign has had an effect on Bulger,” said David Candeias of MASS ACT OUT. “Holt’s candidacy, which was heavily gay supported, was perceived as a real threat. It was a very energized campaign.”

Indeed, first-time office seeker Holt garnered 4,311 votes, nearly 34 percent of those cast in a district that includes parts of Dorchester, the South End, Back Bay, Beacon Hill and South Boston. Bulger’s winning 8,416 tally was mostly comprised of South Boston votes. In fact, Holt actually carried 32 of the 60 precincts, but relatively large voter turnout in South Boston stymied Holt’s attempt to knock-out the long-reigning Senate president. According to Candeias, Holt’s showing indicates Bulger is *not* a widely popular senator.

“It’s clear as a bell that Bulger got clobbered,” agreed Don Gorton of the Greater Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance (GBL/GPA). “He just managed to roll up his margins in South Boston. It was a very skewed election. But it shows there is really

intense opposition to Bulger’s homophobia. The gay and lesbian community gave a very clear message to Bulger — watch out!”

Holt’s campaign was largely orchestrated and supported by the lesbian/gay community, perhaps because Bulger is seen as a major foe in the Senate and a clear obstacle to the passage of the lesbian/gay civil rights bill. Gorton reported that about three-quarters of the people attending a Holt campaign party last week were lesbians and gay men. However, some within the ranks of supporters have become disgruntled over the heterosexual Holt’s apparent reluctance to fully embrace the lesbian/gay constituency. For example, twice in recent months Holt neglected to list endorsements from GBL/GPA and the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus (MGLPC) on brochures distributed in certain Boston neighborhoods. Some have also become angered by Holt’s mention of lesbian and gay concerns only in the context of a long “laundry list” of progressive issues.

“I don’t want to be too hard on Stephen,” Gorton said, “but our support is powerful and I don’t know if he fully appreciates that. It’s a matter of concern. He can’t take lesbian and gay support for granted in 1990.”

Gorton said GBL/GPA has yet to decide whether to endorse Holt again or pick another pro-gay candidate to back in future challenges to Bulger.

In another heated Senate race, incumbent Michael LoPresti handily fended off challenger Robert Travaglini to win reelection in the Suffolk and Middlesex District.

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No sparks fly at Boston AIDS activism forum

Despite rumored tensions, reps from ACT UP/Boston, MASS ACT OUT, PWA Coalition and the AIDS Action Committee exchange strategies and express enthusiasm for October’s actions in D.C.

By Elizabeth Pincus

BOSTON — Local activists met to discuss grassroots AIDS activism at a Sept. 15 community forum, less than a month before the series of nationally-coordinated AIDS and lesbian/gay liberation actions slated for early October in Washington, D.C. Convened by MASS ACT OUT, the forum was not intended to represent all AIDS organizing in Boston, but to open up discussion among several groups with differing strategies — MASS ACT OUT, ACT UP/Boston, the AIDS Action Committee (AAC) and the Boston PWA Coalition. About 50 people crowded the Piemonte Room at City Hall to hear a panel discussion and participate in the meeting, which was also intended to mobilize enthusiasm for the Washington actions.

According to a number of lesbians and gay men who attended the forum, the discussion was kept so tame that conflicts festering among the organizations were never aired. During a question and comment period following the panel discussion, a woman in the audience said, “The meeting has stayed so calm it’s actually bothered me. We’re so different, and we need to discuss how we are going to work together. I didn’t hear that at this forum.”

Though moderators responded that the panel discussion outlined each group’s goals in fighting the AIDS epidemic, which should help strengthen communication and effectiveness, some attendees at the forum remained disgruntled. ACT UP/Boston member Jim Sullivan said, “ACT OUT, ACT UP and AAC bragged about who they were, but there were no real differences discussed. We weren’t allowed to be controversial. There were some confessionals, but that’s not AIDS activism.”

Jade McGleughlin of MASS ACT OUT also said she was disappointed in the discussion, charging that political differences got trivialized. “I would have liked to have seen us have more of a dialogue,” she said. “There are serious issues involved concerning approaches to AIDS activism — and gender and other concerns — but only a very small part of it was discussed. I feel discouraged about what’s happening in Boston.”

Other people at the forum said they found it productive. “The tone was muted, but the discussion showed we can all work together,” said David Candeias of MASS ACT OUT. “It laid some groundwork for the groups to get together. It may not have been as exciting as some people would have liked, but it could have been a fracas.”

Some activists contacted by GCN were reluctant to go on the record with specifics about the political conflicts between AIDS activists in Boston, though several people mentioned that discontent has brewed between MASS ACT OUT and ACT UP/Boston since the groups formed last fall. From the beginning, ACT UP/Boston has channeled its energy into AIDS treatment issues while ACT OUT developed an agenda that includes fighting racism, sexism, heterosexism and class oppression in addition to AIDS activism. Another difference arose concerning the political events in D.C. — MASS ACT OUT endorsed the actions and began organizing local participation, whereas ACT UP/Boston chose to keep focusing on activism in Boston. However, these political differences were not overtly tackled at the Sept. 15 meeting, and representatives of both groups spoke of supporting each other’s work.

“The basic gripe [between ACT OUT and ACT UP] is one of analysis and agenda,” said MASS ACT OUT’s Nancy De Luca. “And AAC is not seen as an activist group. But the forum didn’t address this — everybody played nice. In certain ways it was a good thing anyway, to get together and deal with plans to go to D.C.”

Countered Sullivan, “I know it’s great to go to Washington, but I’d rather see more demonstrating here in Boston. Even if the FDA [Food and Drug Administration — a target of one of the D.C. protests] releases more drugs to be tested, no doctors or

hospitals in Boston want to use them. It’s easy for people to go demonstrate in Washington, where they don’t have to get their hands dirty.”

The panel discussion

The panel was moderated by long-time local activists Cathy Hoffman and Abe Rybeck, and consisted of panelists Ann Holder of MASS ACT OUT, Laurie Novick of AAC, Steven Busby of ACT UP/Boston, and Steven Rose of the Boston PWA Coalition. Each participant described the mission of their organization, as well as obstacles toward achieving their aims. Their differences in mission revealed varying political philosophies.

Holder described MASS ACT OUT as a lesbian and gay group with a mission to fight homophobia and understand the diversity of the community. She said the group’s mission includes fighting AIDS — encouraging the discovery or development of a cure, stopping the spread of AIDS worldwide, and working to provide treatment for peo-



Steven Busby

ple with AIDS (PWAs). Holder said MASS ACT OUT believes PWAs should not be marginalized, and that a coalition movement should work to challenge the moral status quo.

Novick claimed AAC shared a “similar vision” with MASS ACT OUT, though she said the staff had very diverse political perspectives. AAC’s goals include improving the quality of life for PWAs and PWARCs, and stopping the spread of AIDS, according to Novick. She stated that AAC is a mainstream, professional organization of multiple constituencies, focused on mobilizing resources to combat the AIDS epidemic. While claiming that “homophobia is a barrier to the work of AIDS groups,” Novick said AAC is not a gay rights organization.

Busby described ACT UP/Boston as a “remarkably diverse group which doesn’t agree on anything except that AIDS as an agenda must be addressed.” He said the group’s ultimate goal is to end the AIDS crisis, with a primary purpose of conducting research and providing information. Busby said the group’s work often necessitates direct action protest. He also mentioned that ACT UP recognizes problems of sexism, racism and homophobia in the context of the AIDS epidemic.

Rose of the Boston PWA Coalition closed the panel presentations by discussing his experiences of sadness, anger and subsequent empowerment following his AIDS diagnosis. He said the PWA Coalition is a self-help/self-empowerment group concerned with “changing forever the relationship between the health care system and people, between doctors and people who are sick — whatever that may mean.” Rose, who called the medical research structure “almost

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Unique AIDS support service hits the road

Mobile AIDS Resource Team (MART) provides AIDS education and staff support for residential substance abuse programs in Greater Boston

By Elizabeth Pincus

BOSTON — A new AIDS education program designed to assist staff and clients of substance abuse treatment centers has been launched this month in the Greater Boston area. The program, called the Mobile AIDS Resource Team (MART), was organized by Victory House, a 13-year-old residential treatment center for male drug users and alcoholics. MART, which received a \$200,000 start-up grant from the Mass. Department of Public Health, is working in cooperation with Boston’s AIDS Action Committee (AAC) and public health nurses from the Community Infectious Disease Epidemiology Program (CIPED).

Based out of Victory House’s South End location, a MART team of substance abuse and AIDS health care professionals travels in a van to do outreach to alcohol/drug rehabilitation centers and halfway houses. The team provides education and support services for people dealing with AIDS, ARC and HIV-infection in the context of recovery from substance abuse. (HIV is a virus thought by many to be a cause of AIDS.) People in groups disproportionately affected by HIV-infection — gay and bisexual men, IV drug users, people of color, and people who have been incarcerated in prison — are the initial focus of the pilot project. The MART staff plans to first concentrate its efforts working with 45 agencies in the following neighborhoods: South End, Roxbury, Mattapan, Dorchester, East Boston, Jamaica Plain, Brighton, Cambridge and Chelsea. Although Victory House is a men’s facility, MART also provides services for women and children.

According to a program description provided by Jonathan Scott, executive director of Victory House, the mission of MART is

to “meet the overwhelming emotional, physical and spiritual needs of staff and their clients with HIV-infection.” MART strives to “assure the quality of living for clients with HIV-related illness in treatment programs, and assist them in maintaining [their] optimum level of health and func-

“MART is sensitive to the fears of the homeless, the pain and struggle of recovery, and the special emotional and healthcare needs of men and women with AIDS.”

tioning by: reducing risks and lowering anxiety; improving emotional outlook; and determining new ways to evaluate health and healing options.”

Scott, who coordinates the MART pilot team of four employees, said he hopes the innovative program will set a precedent for other AIDS education efforts around the country. He also sees MART as an important bridge between alcohol/drug centers and the AIDS service community. “We need to develop trust and support among substance abuse agencies [and AIDS service organizations],” he explained. “It’s crucial that providers realize we want to offer back-up services for the staff, not expect them to become [AIDS] hospice programs. Victory House can lend legitimacy to the fight against AIDS since we have already worked cooperatively within the local alcoholism/drug and AIDS service net-

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The Power of Community Unity in DC

Last week, the National Park Service said it had no space for the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt on the Ellipse in Washington, where it was scheduled for display during the October 6-11 series of lesbian and gay events in Washington, D.C. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) still has no place for people with AIDS, ARC and HIV infection, systematically delaying the release of information and promising treatments. And the Department of Health and Human Services makes no case for comprehensive and compassionate responses to AIDS by neglecting people affected by the epidemic and refusing to advocate the establishment of a national health care system.

No space, no place, no case.

Last year, three-quarters of a million lesbians and gay men made room for ourselves in Washington. We marched, we celebrated, we cried, we recommitted ourselves to fighting for what we need and we began a new phase of organizing.

If last year's March demonstrated strength in numbers, this year's events show power in community solidarity and organization. The national network struggling against AIDS includes people with AIDS, ARC and HIV infection, people in groups hit hardest by the epidemic — gay men, people of color, intravenous drug users and people in more than one of these groups — and people in supportive groups at varying risk, including lesbians.

It is clear that AIDS activists organizing the events in Washington do not agree about the best strategies to employ in the struggle against AIDS. For example, activists disagree about the balance between national and local organizing and the balance between a focus on treatment and care for people with AIDS, ARC and HIV infection and a focus on lesbian and gay liberation. But all of the organizers share the vision of a world without heterosexism and AIDS.

How to achieve that vision — and how to live with AIDS — is the subject of a passionate national discussion engaging a growing network of AIDS activists, including political organizers and service providers. In the discouraging political climate of the 1980s, our continuing enthusiasm in imagining and working for a more just world is in itself an achievement of which we can be proud. For their activism and their contributions to this discussion, we applaud locally-based ACT UPs and ACT OUTs and all member organizations of ACT NOW, as well as the varied community-based groups struggling against AIDS.

In Washington, we not only have a chance to continue to raise our voices against government indifference, but we also have a chance to compare and link strategies, learn with one another and plan for the future. GCN looks forward to serious and productive discussions about: how service providers, political activists and those who consider themselves both can work together and move forward against AIDS; how a strategy focused on treatment can be fit into a more broad strategy focused on lesbian and gay liberation; how local and national organizing can build on one another; how we can more comprehensively include an analysis of the class, race and sex dimensions of the epidemic in organizing; and how to build coalitions including gay men, lesbians, people of color, intravenous drug users,

prisoners, people with disabilities, people with AIDS, ARC and HIV infection and people in more than one of these groups. Since a coalition response is necessary for effective change, we must ask what our movement can learn from already existing coalitions and previous ongoing movements for social change.

We support the DC actions. For those who are able, we encourage participation in the Washington events — in particular, see the Quilt (beginning Oct. 9), attend the ACT NOW AIDS teach-in (Oct. 8) conference of AIDS activists (Oct. 9), and come out on National Gay Rights Advocates-sponsored Coming Out Day (Oct. 11). We also encourage participation in the civil disobedience action at the FDA (Oct. 11) and the demonstration at Health and Human Services (Oct. 10). For those who do go to Washington, we encourage you to bring back to your communities information and insights gained there.

We endorse many of the demands that will be made at the FDA, including:

- government provision of access to treatments as a human right
- FDA and other agency release of all promising AIDS treatments
- FDA provision of all information on drugs and treatments
- federal agency opening of all treatment trials to all people affected by AIDS, including gay men and lesbians, people of color, prisoners, heterosexual men and women, women of child-bearing age, intravenous drug users and children
- government agency recognition that people affected by AIDS must have control in all decisions concerning their care and treatment.

We also endorse many of the demands that will be made at Health and Human Services, including:

- federal government recognition of universal access to health care as a human right
- Center for Disease Control elimination of arbitrary and life-threatening distinctions between AIDS, ARC and HIV infections
- agency inclusion of representatives from affected communities at all levels of decision-making for HIV-related research, treatment, education and funding
- federal action to end all discriminatory practices and policies against people with AIDS and ARC, HIV-infected people, and their partners and children
- government funding for comprehensive, culturally-sensitive education programs about AIDS that are sexually explicit and positive about gay and lesbian sexuality.

Four thousand telephone calls to the National Park Service headquarters last week moved the Washington bureaucrats over. Negotiations made room for the NAMES Project Quilt and the lesbians and gay men who will travel to see its beautiful panels created in memory of those who have died. GCN hopes that our actions in Washington will elicit equally responsive changes on the parts of the FDA and the Department of Health and Human Services.

GCN editorials reflect the consensus of the full-time staff collective.

Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of eleven, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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SEX. POLITICS.



"GCN consistently covers the intersection of sex & politics which is often the location of our troubles & our joys — both individually & collectively. GCN is simply the most interesting publication for lesbians & gay men in this country." — Sue Hyde
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National Gay & Lesbian Task Force

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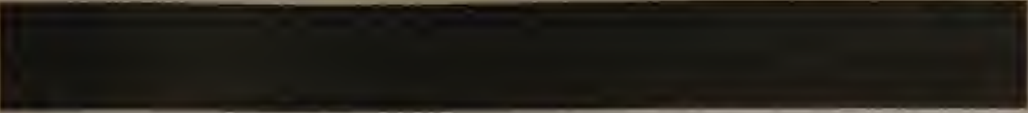
COMMUNITY VOICES

Thank you New England War Tax Resistance

GCN gratefully acknowledges our recent grant from New England War Tax Resistance (NE/WTR). NE/WTR is an "eclectic group" that refuses to pay telephone tax and all or part of their income tax to

the U.S. government. Among the reasons for this form of civil disobedience are opposition to government militarism and interventionism, pacifism, religious traditions, anarchism and feminism. Interest from money withheld from the government is distributed to peace and community groups. GCN's grant from NE/WTR will be used to increase our subscription base.

For information about NE/WTR's grants and tax clinics, contact them at Box 174, MIT Branch P.O., Cambridge, MA 02139 or telephone (617) 731-6139.



Angry Initiatives/Defiant Strategies

Monday, September 26, 7:30pm. J.P. Firehouse, 659 Centre St., Jamaica Plain.

Produced by John Greyson, this moving and hilarious hour-long video features clips from AIDS-related videos. Presented by **GCN** and **Deep Dish T.V.** \$2. Info: 426-4469.

GCN welcomes all letters to the editor except personal attacks. Carbon copies of letters sent elsewhere are printed on a space-available basis. The opinions expressed here are those of the author and are not intended to represent the views of the GCN membership. Letters must be TYPED, DOUBLE-SPACED AND NO LONGER THAN THREE PAGES. Send to: Community Voices, GCN, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

Mass. prisons violate health regs & all sense of decency

[GCN received a copy of this letter sent to the Commissioner of the Mass. Department of Corrections]

Dear Commissioner Michael Fair:
I am writing in regards to Mr. Elmo Johnson and several other prisoners on 8N Ward of the Shattuck Hospital. These prisoners report that the physical conditions on 8N are deplorable, especially during hot weather. There are no fans and very little ventilation even though the temperature reaches over 90 degrees inside. They also state that cockroaches run rampant.

Considering that most of these men are confined to their rooms, or the ward, for 24 hours a day, and considering that they suffer from suppressed immune systems, a clean, healthy environment becomes all the more imperative. Surely, the Department of Public Health would not tolerate such conditions, were they to inspect the premises. Nor would the Department of Corrections (DOC) want to incur liability if these patients became sicker due to exposure to diseases inside the facility because of being warehoused at the Shattuck long after they are medically released by the doctors.

Secondly, since prisoners are being warehoused there instead of returning to penal facilities due to their "health status," the DOC is in violation of state regulations, court decisions and the Due Process Clause. Prisoners, some of whom have been there as long as two years, are denied access to the courts by the lack of a law library, lack of any legal assistance and lack of any DOC caseworkers in the facility.

Similarly, the DOC is in violation of the *Blaney* decision, which mandates access to educational, vocational and work programs so that a prisoner has the opportunity to earn good time credits. Without such program access, these prisoners may well end up serving longer sentences, since there will be no good time deductions. They are also likely to suffer mental and physical deterioration, due to having no chance to engage in meaningful activity, which is all the more necessary for a terminally ill prisoner.

At the Shattuck, there have been many reports of gross procedural violations of disciplinary and classification regulations. Situations have occurred in which a prisoner receives a disciplinary ticket and is housed in a storage closet for as long as 30 days before a disciplinary board holds a hearing. These hearings do not allow for access to legal representation, access to witnesses or conformity to the time requirements in department regulations. To hand out punishment before a disciplinary board convenes, and to lock terminally ill patients in a storage closet, violates state regulations and all sense of human decency.

There have also been many reports of violations of classification and board procedures. Prisoners are held at maximum security regardless of their previous security status and are warehoused at the Shattuck long past their medical release date.

Underlying these problems, the DOC seems to have assumed that the 8N ward is not subject to state regulations. Such is clearly not the case, especially where so many prisoners are forced to serve out several years there without medical justification. The DOC is in violation of state law in exempting 8N ward from the regulations as

it is, in fact, a DOC facility.

Your attention to these matters would be greatly appreciated, in light of the critical situation on the 8N ward. A response would be appreciated.

Sincerely,
Deborah Shields, Esq.
Mass. Correctional Legal Services
Boston, MA

All can benefit from the voices of the Quilt

Dear GCN:

I am writing to respond to Jennifer Santini's comment in the Sept. 4-10 issue of *GCN*. She writes that she has a "hard time mourning men whose own sexual and lifestyle excesses brought them to where they are now" — fighting for their lives. She sees the NAMES Project, a memorial to all men and women and children with HIV, as a "silly" product of the "shallow" gay male community.

Santini engages in an argument that I'm sure she would condemn if used against the battered women she defends: *blaming the victim*. It is not sexual excess that has yanked the gay community into the AIDS epidemic. It is an infectious agent, a virus, perhaps. Gay men with AIDS are no more to blame for being infected with HIV than battered women are for staying in abusive relationships.

As a lesbian, a feminist and a counselor of many gay men, lesbians, bisexual and straight women and men, IV drug users, and others of various races, ages and political ideologies, I remain convinced that the Quilt is a moving expression of the realities of our lives as diverse, yet inherently connected. One thing generally held in common by those who would blame victims or survivors is a reluctance or a refusal to shut up and listen. We can all benefit from listening a little more to the voices of the Quilt, for they are the voices of our own communities, friends, lovers, family, ourselves. And they are neither shallow nor silly, Ms. Santini.

Jennifer L. Walters
Brighton, Mass.

Quilt eases the pain

Dear GCN:

I need to take issue with two points raised in Jennifer Santini's "Shallowness and Silliness" (*GCN*, Sept. 4-10). First, by saying that the NAMES Project mourns "men whose own sexual and lifestyle excesses brought them to where they are now," she ignores the fact that it is not sexual activity nor lifestyle that causes AIDS. AIDS can only develop after an individual is exposed to body fluids that have been previously infected with HIV. Although the scientific literature records the case of an alcoholic gay man who attempted to commit suicide by contracting AIDS, this case is not representative of most PWAs [People with AIDS]. To argue that gay men with AIDS should not be given support because of their sexual or lifestyle choices would be similar to arguing that no support should be given to women who are victims of domestic violence or rape because they choose to be in a violent situation.

The second issue that Ms. Santini raises is the shallowness of the sentiment. I do not know why the family and friends of one man put "Honey Wasn't It Fabulous" on his quilt square. But I have no doubt that the quilt holds significant meaning for them; that it helped ease the pain they experienced as a result of his death. When I saw the quilt in Detroit there were many squares which I did not understand. But that does not make those sentiments "shallow and silly." And when I fly to Washington, D.C. on October 9 in order to see the Quilt and offer my prayers as a living memorial to my friends who have died, my gesture is no less shallow and silly than those who remember the dead at the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial, various Holocaust memorials, or at numerous cemeteries throughout the country.

Sincerely,
Steven L. Berg
Lansing, Mich.



Anger fuels our resistance

By Camomile of Prairie Fire Organizing Committee

John D'Emilio is one of our most important theoretical writers. He has made important contributions to our understanding of gay identity in the U.S. in the 1980s. All the more disturbing that he should publish a piece like "You can't build a movement on anger" (*GCN*, June 19-25, 1988).

D'Emilio says that if we build a movement based on our anger we will doom ourselves to failure. I couldn't disagree more. Our outrage is one of our most valuable resources. This is not to say that anger is sufficient; nor that it can be a substitute for political analysis and strategy. But, contrary to what D'Emilio suggests, it is often in those moments when we are thoroughly disgusted, fed up and pissed off that we see our oppressor, our enemy, most clearly.

"Enemy" is a harsh word to use, but it's an important concept to examine, because acknowledging that we have an enemy affects our strategy. We often prefer to think that we don't have an enemy, that we can have a dialog with the institutions that oppress us. Institutions, after all, are made up of individuals, and individuals' minds can be changed. But enemies are not reasonable. They don't care what we think. They don't care about us, period. They only care about controlling us. You don't reason with enemies, you defeat them.

Take the example of the AIDS epidemic. The government has made it clear by their response — or lack of it — that they don't care if we die. If mere reason were sufficient to bring about a change, the arguments of the gay community and other communities affected by AIDS would long ago have persuaded the individuals with the power to bring about change. Safe sex education would be in every classroom and workplace. Experimental treatments would be made available free to anyone who wanted to try them. Mandatory testing and quarantine would be rejected as the reactionary, counterproductive schemes that they are. There would be a real war on drugs designed to stop *pushers*, not a propaganda war that criminalizes users. For the most part, the only changes have been the ones implemented at the grassroots by people in affected communities, or changes that, by acting up, we have forced the government to implement. Frank Young decided to let people with AIDS import non-FDA-approved treatments because it was more politically expedient to throw a bone than to face a bunch of angry people getting arrested on his doorstep.

D'Emilio doesn't argue against the AIDS activist movement engaging in civil disobedience. In fact, he probably thinks it's an effective tactic. But conquering AIDS is only one of the tasks at hand. What we need to figure out is how, as lesbians and gay men, we are going to achieve our liberation. And that question touches on a deeper issue — the issue of power. We cannot achieve our liberation until we have the power to control the conditions under which we live — the power to reshape society according to a vision which we help to define, not one defined by our enemy. And we cannot gain that power without fighting for it.

D'Emilio is not really arguing against anger. He's arguing against militance. He's arguing that neither we, nor any other oppressed people, should fight for the power to control our lives. He makes this argument in a most disturbing way, using the Black Liberation Movement of the '60s as his example. He asserts, like others who opposed militant action for Black Liberation, that the "sit-ins, freedom rides, mass marches, community wide mobilizations, national boycotts, court litigation and legislative lobbying" and the "careful, thoughtful, reasoned strategizing [that] lay behind it all ... built an extraordinarily broad-based movement." But, he claims, "Black activists in SNCC [Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee] and the Black Panther Party found themselves cut off from the rest of the movement" when they responded to the violence of the state and the Klan by mobilizing "on the basis of rage.... Angry, impassioned calls to pick up the gun in self-defense lost for the cause the mantle of moral superiority that had been so potent a force in the early 1960s."

For an historian of D'Emilio's stature, this is a shamefully simplistic rewrite. He

implies that non-violent tactics are more certain to win support than militance. But history doesn't bear this out. At *every* stage of the Black Liberation Movement, actions that challenged the limits imposed by racist laws and social conventions were denounced as "too militant." It didn't matter if the tactics were non-violent or not. Those who participated in the pacifist Freedom Rides and lunch counter sit-ins in the late '50s and early '60s were not warmly supported; they were red-baited, beaten and criticized for "going too far, too fast." They, too, were warned that they would isolate themselves from their potential base of support.

D'Emilio implies that political strategies based on non-violent principles are by definition more profound than those that call for militance. But Malcolm X, who D'Emilio did not even mention, was a brilliant strategist. He made a profound analysis of American society, arguing that Black people in the U.S. are a colonized nation and that no reform, only liberation, could alter this basic relationship. He cautioned his people that restricting their struggle to civil rights would only guarantee their continued oppression and he urged them to fight for human rights and complete freedom. D'Emilio may not agree with Malcolm's analysis, but he would have to admit that, while it grew out of Malcolm's outrage at the oppression of Black people, it was certainly "careful, thoughtful and reasoned."

D'Emilio also conveniently ignores the hundreds of Black rebellions — in which tens of thousands participated — which rocked nearly every Black urban center in the U.S. during the late '60s. As for the Black Panther Party, its call for Black people to defend themselves against their oppressors didn't isolate them. Quite the contrary: the Panthers gave a political view to the rage smoldering among Black people — which is why they were able to grow into a national movement with millions of supporters in the space of just a few short years.

D'Emilio also addresses the impact of what he calls the politics of anger on the women's movement in the late '70s. Here he suggests that feminist's anger about sexual violence — rape, battering, abuse and incest — affected (read: muddled) "their thinking about issues and strategy," and led to campaigns against pornography which fed the Christian New Right. If women want men to stop beating them, they are going to have to stop them. Some men will listen to reason; others will change only when confronted with superior force. Why does D'Emilio insist that any time oppressed people fight back they are destroying themselves, rather than building their strength? Fighting back is liberating.

D'Emilio concludes that while we have to feel our emotions, including our rage, we should leave these feelings behind when building our movement. Yet anger at our oppression played a part in moving every one of us to become part of the lesbian and gay liberation movement. And it will continue to fuel our resistance. No one is arguing that anger can substitute for strategy. But rather than trying to suppress our anger, we should be figuring out how to focus it, how to convert it into energy that builds our struggle. Otherwise, we will find it too easy to make peace with a system that is incapable of offering us anything more than tolerance.

Camomile is a gay man who has been active in the lesbian/gay liberation movement since the early 1970s and an anti-imperialist for even longer. He is a co-parent of four children and one of the coordinators of the Red Dragons, a political children's group in San Francisco. He is also a member of the Editorial Board of Breakthrough, Prairie Fire's political journal.

"Speaking Out" is part of our continuing effort to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings and comments to us, and to respond to ideas expressed in this space. The opinions expressed are those of the author and are not intended to represent the views of the GCN membership. Submissions must be TYPED, DOUBLE-SPACED, AND NO LONGER THAN FIVE PAGES. Send to: Speaking Out, GCN, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116.

COMMUNITY VOICES

Gay Games III

Dear *GCN*:

In just days, many of us will be wed to the Olympic Games at Seoul, Korea — the drama, the thrills, the rise and fall of heroes, and dreams of “being like them.” Earning a trip to Seoul has meant years of training, discipline, commitment for the athletes. They represent the glory and camaraderie of sports.

While Seoul shines with brotherhood, another sporting event based on world community is in preparation. This other event emphasizes participation (gay/straight, female/male, young/old), is for building the spirit of community, and, as founder Dr. Tom Waddell wished, is for showing individuals the “terrific self-esteem and self-worth they should have.” CELEBRATION '90: GAY GAMES III and CULTURAL FESTIVAL is still two years away, August 4-11, 1990, but the world is already preparing.

In Boston, there will be a meeting to organize a steering committee, Monday, October 17th, 7 pm at Club Cabaret. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate.

Over Columbus Day Weekend, I will be travelling to Vancouver, site for GG III, for “Two for the Show,” a conference of international delegates to discuss preparations for Celebration '90. Many issues will be addressed. To best represent Boston and present our ideas, I invite the community to share their concerns and questions about GG III with me, or contact Vancouver directly (address below.)

At the 1986 Gay Games in San Francisco, 114 athletes competed as the Boston team. Hopes are to more than double that number for the trip to Vancouver in 1990. GG III boasts 25 sports — no cut-off times or minimum requirements. The sports are:

Basketball, powerlifting, volleyball, racquetball, swimming, water polo, equestrian, golf, billiards, cycling, tennis, softball, race walking, martial arts, physique, soccer, bowling, squash, diving, badminton, touch/flag football, triathlon, marathon, wrestling, track and field.

To be part of the Boston team, competitor, or supporter, send your address, phone number, questions and ideas to: Boston Sports Committee, c/o Metropolitan Health Club, P.O. Box 329, Boston, MA 02117 or call 536-3006 between 9 am and noon.

You can dream of the Olympians in Seoul, then you can be an Olympian in Vancouver.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey F. Pike
Somerville, Mass.

P.S. The Celebration '90 organizers need our financial assistance, A \$10 check will get you a year of the Gay Games III newsletter and event updates. Send contributions to Metropolitan Vancouver Athletic and Arts Ass'n, 1170 Bute Street, Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6E 1Z6. Let's show our support today!!

More on “dementia”

Dear *GCN*:

The viewpoints I reported in the news article I wrote about the National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference workshop entitled “AIDS Dementia” were, as stated in the text, those of the two presenters — gay clinicians working in an inpatient HIV/medical setting [*GCN* Aug. 21-Sept. 3].

The language utilized — interchanging “dementia” and encephalopathy — was taken directly from the presentation. I

regret that it was offensive to Steven Rose and apologize to those upset by it [See *GCN*, Sept. 18-24]. Also, some of my critical analysis was cut from the end of the article due to space limitations and the article was not intended to be a comprehensive discussion of the subject, so I certainly take some of Rose's other points.

However I reject the notion that I intended to label “all HIV-infected people — indeed our entire community — with the word ‘dementia’.” Furthermore, I reject the notion (implied in Rose's letter) that gay people or HIV-infected people are automatically labelled sick by all mental health clinicians, especially those he derisively labels “AIDS mental health professionals,” as well as those he calls “straight-oriented” and thus anti-gay. This slurring of service providers by activists smacks of the very generalizing Rose decries in his letter.

My personal, vocal and activist commitment to the AIDS, HIV-infected, at risk and gay/lesbian communities, as well as to affirming our mental health — is a matter of record; one of which I am proud.

As I have found, gay-affirming, gay-sensitive and activist contributions to *GCN* are welcome and especially sought. Information on this and other subjects investigated by ACT UP and others would be particularly helpful printed in *GCN*'s pages and for those of us (mental health professionals or not) seeking to counter the ignorance and misunderstanding prevalent around HIV infection. Diseases are often associated with the gay/lesbian community and used against us — service providers, activists, people with AIDS, gay and lesbian recreational intravenous drug users, and people with HIV infection — and every possible combination of the above.

Very sincerely,
Marca Murray
Brookline, Mass.

Informed friends needed

Dear *GCN*:

I was placed on Protective Custody some time ago by the Prison Administration as “an inmate with Mental Problems who is a threat to himself and others.” (Being Gay) However, since I've been on “protective custody” I've been stabbed on two separate occasions. Both times I had to fight down and subdue my assailant before the guards would make a move to assist me. However, whenever I've hit a guard in the past the guards swarm on me like ants to honey and kick my ass.

Anyway, after going through what I've been through, I have no doubt that this administration entertains the idea of seeing me, an open faggot, seriously hurt or even dead (of a heart attack or AIDS of course), so I need to put some protection on myself by letting them know that I have “informed friends” on the outside.

You can all help by writing to Dr. Steven Davies, Director of Kansas State Penitentiary, PO Box 2, Lansing, KS 66043, and letting him know that I have friends out there who are interested in my well being and by asking him to transfer me to another Kansas facility. And by writing to me (so they'll see all the letters). I'm calling on all my brothers and sisters of conscience in the gay and lesbian community to help me in a time of real need.

In the struggle,
Charlie A. Dill
36117 KSP
PO Box 2
Lansing, KS 66043

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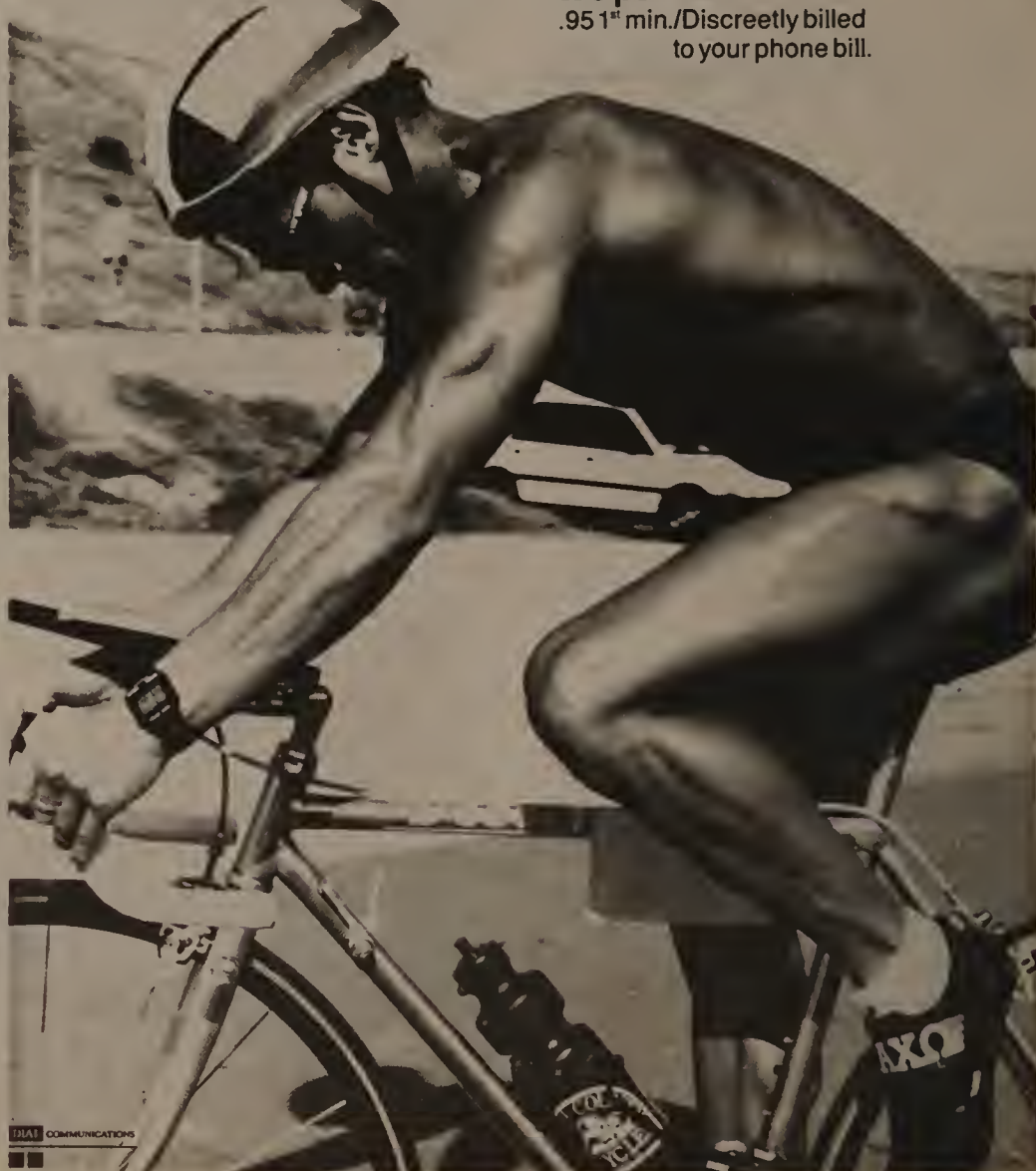
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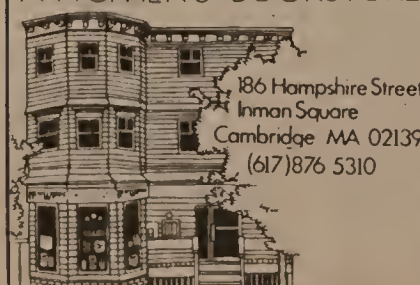
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Beating on the doors of the Pentagon, Women's Pentagon Action, Nov., 1980.

Chronicling resistance

Ellen Shub's movement photos

Peace and Justice Photos. By Ellen Shub. At the Somerville Public Library, Somerville, Mass. August 8-29. Closed.

By Stephanie Poggi

Movement photographer Ellen Shub is always just around a camera — at the New England showing of the NAMES Project Memorial AIDS Quilt just a few months ago, at Big Mountain in Arizona where 10,000 Diné Indians face forced relocation, at the Women's Pentagon Action in 1980, on the Boston Common in 1981 as students protested budget cuts. In this role as one of the chroniclers of activism, she has produced a remarkable series of black and white prints, recently on display at the Somerville Public Library.

The photos, some of which have appeared in *Gay Community News* as well as in other gay, feminist and left papers, make passionate tributes to a decade of people fighting repression of all kinds. And the captions — many several paragraphs long — tell a lot of our stories, giving sharp background to the faces and issues represented.

While I love the photos that are included, I do wish there had been a few more stories told. Specifically, I would have liked to see more of the portraits identified as gay or lesbian — actually there are no designated portraits of lesbians, although the shots of Womens' Pentagon Action demonstrations probably feature a lot of us. And there's only one explicitly gay male photo, although the photos of the NAMES Project most likely include gay men and lesbians, and definitely have "gay content." I also would have appreciated at least one photo of the 1987 National March on Washington for



John Pascarelli, a gay activist since the Stonewall riot, at the Boston AIDS Action Committee Christmas party, Dec., 1987. This photo was taken three days before John's death.

Lesbian and Gay Rights. Finally, it would have been a real boost to see photos of people with AIDS who are living with the illness — the one shot we get of a PWA, also the only explicitly gay male shot, is of John Pascarelli, who died last year.

Still, Shub's work definitely captures a spirit of resistance from every corner, offering inspiration to carry us through the next years. Watch for future showings of this exhibit, as Shub is currently investigating new sites. □

Illinois

Continued from page 1

Center and will include signs reading "Governor for Sale" and an oversized copy of a check for \$115,098.76 from the ISMS PAC to Jim Thompson (the amount of ISMS PAC contributions to Thompson over the last two and a half years). Leaflets to be passed out will address several other shortcomings of state AIDS policy, including the lack of a state-wide AIDS Council, and the refusal of the Department of Public Aid to pay for the drug AZT for people with AIDS (PWAs), and the recent failure of the state to pass a law providing medical coverage for people who cannot obtain health insurance — a bill strongly supported by AIDS activists.

In the evening, the rally will move to the governor's Chicago residence, near the heavily lesbian/gay neighborhood New Town. A rally and candlelight procession from New Town to Thompson's house will include a call for all people to present a "Contract for Services," drawn up by ILGTF, to their personal physician. The contract states that the physician will not do any testing on the patient without written, informed consent. The contract also includes provisions forbidding the doctor from

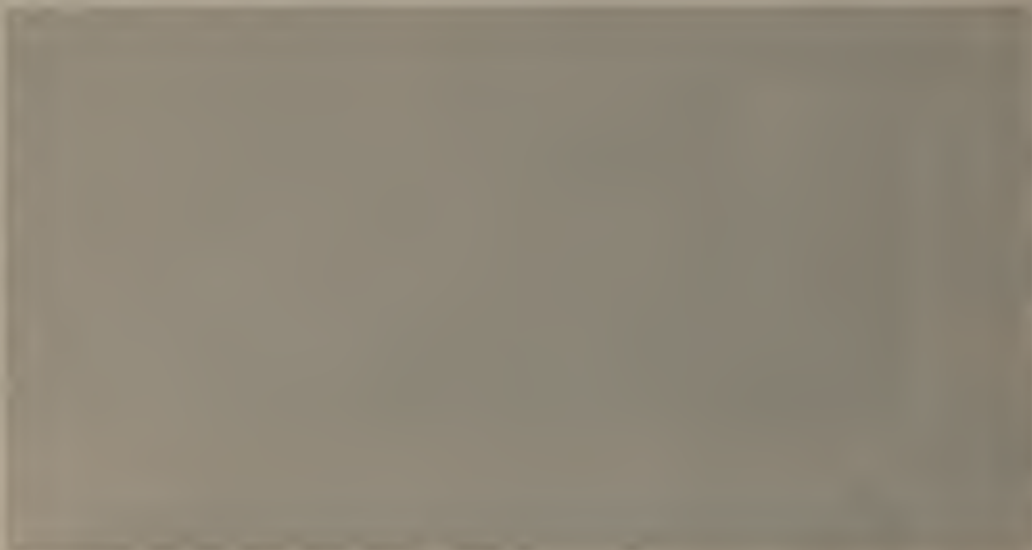
maintaining the contract in the patient's medical file, or informing third parties — including insurance companies — of the existence of the contract. ILGTF has threatened to organize pickets at the offices of doctors who refuse to sign the contract. C-FAR also plans to greet the governor with an angry demonstration at the airport upon his return from China Sept. 23. In addition, the ICLU is considering filing suit against the state to overturn the legislation.

Expressing the frustration and anger of many in the lesbian and gay community in Chicago, local activist Terry Cosgrove said, "How can Jim Thompson be so arrogant that he can step on people this way? This is the absolute worst decision the governor has made in his 12 years in office. He's going to pay for this politically. That's not a threat, it's a promise." □ filed from Boston

Announcement

The Unitarian Universalist Association will conduct a memorial service for Mark Mosher DeWolfe on Oct. 2 at six p.m. at the Arlington Street Church. DeWolfe was an active member of the lesbian/gay community in the Toronto area and a former staffer with *GCN*. (See obituary, *GCN*, Vol. 16, No. 6). For more information about the service, call the Arlington Street Church at (617) 536-7050.

Across The Worlds of Queerness and Disability — An Introduction



By Carrie Dearborn

This interview with Marsha Saxton, one of the editors of *With Wings* — an anthology by and about women with disabilities — had to be the most ill-fated ever. First of all, I had terrible problems getting the book read because of its physical weight and small type. This meant that I ended up feeling less prepared than I would have liked. Then, in order to get to the Office of Handicapped Affairs in Boston to do the actual taping, I had to deal with the limitations of the Ride, a para-transit service in the Boston-area, or van service for people who use wheelchairs. Finally, when we got around all that — wouldn't you know it? — the tape recorder decided to eat the tape. (As you can see, we did manage to paste it back together and eventually got it transcribed.)

Now to the interview itself — it talks about a number of issues, including the inaccessibility of books to many disabled people, the range of attitudes women have toward their disabilities, and possible AIDS activism on disability issues.

One of the topics not addressed in specific is disabled lesbians. Considering that this year marks the tenth anniversary of both my official coming out and lesbian/gay pride parade, the fact that *With Wings* includes a number of pieces by lesbian authors, and the fact that disabled lesbians have particular issues, this omission on my part may be rather startling. I think it's due to the fact that it's very hard to overlap the two seemingly separate worlds of lesbian/gay and disability. Also, because Marsha Saxton is not a lesbian, what we had in common was being women and being disabled. (She has spina bifida; I use a wheelchair.)

But after the interview I did decide I wanted to include some talk about disabled lesbians, so Marsha and I discussed a number of things. We noted that because of the stereotype of asexuality for disabled people, disabled lesbians are regarded by mainstream society as particularly strange. Marsha said she had heard comments aimed at disabled lesbians like, "Well, no wonder she's a lesbian, she'd never be able to get a man the way she is." Another big issue for many disabled lesbians is the difficulty of finding sensitive, non-homophobic personal care attendants, and I think it's gotten worse since the AIDS crisis. (Oddly, being an out lesbian in the hospital before AIDS had to be the most fun experience of my life. I felt safe and accepted. All the closet queers came by to give me things like autumn leaves or a snowball. And I delighted in leaving notes like "the lesbian is in the cafeteria" stuck onto my chart. Since AIDS, I've been in the hospital twice. While I wasn't reluctant to hang up my gay flag, I didn't leave any notes on my chart either. I just

feel less safe now and no closet cases seemed willing to risk coming by.)

In general, though, disabled lesbians have to contend with the fact that we're marginalized because we're queer *and* because we're disabled. If we're also women of color or from working class backgrounds or old, or all of the above, we can face even more marginalization. This is made a lot harder because of this two worlds issue I mentioned — the fact that the disabled movement tends to be quite homophobic and the lesbian/gay movement has a lot of work to do in terms of attitudes. For example, the disability rights movement has, with a few exceptions, been reluctant to join the fight for the rights of Sharon Kowalski — a disabled lesbian whose parents have denied her rehabilitation and visits with her lover Karen Thompson.

As an example from the other side, most gay people with AIDS and the AIDS activist movement have not been very anxious to make common cause with disabled activists. Such an alliance would definitely strengthen efforts of both groups to gain more control over medical technology and the ways the medical system responds to us. An alliance could also help us gain the better social services both AIDS activists and disability activists are fighting for. (I do want to point out that the lesbian community has tended to be very willing — more so than the women's community in general, Marsha and I agree — to make accommodations for women with disabilities at events such as concerts; the Michigan Women's Music Festival, for example, is a model of accessibility. The gay male community tends to lag far behind in this area.)

A few last notes: disabled lesbians in the Boston area are definitely becoming better organized (see resources at end), but disabled gay men don't seem to be organizing as a group. If any disabled gay men in the country are organizing together, we would love to hear about it. We also hope disabled lesbians and disabled women, including those of us with mental disabilities and/or brain damage, will continue to organize and demand changes.

Finally, you'll notice that Marsha and I use the word "disabled" throughout the interview, as opposed to phrases like "differently abled" or "physically challenged." Both of us find these terms too euphemistic. But we think it's important that disabled people are struggling to have our own word, our own ways of describing ourselves, rather than letting the mainstream culture come up with the terms.

With Wings, edited by Marsha Saxton and Florence Howe, is published by the Feminist Press, New York, New York, 1987. It's paperback and is available in bookstores for \$12.95. It's also available from Recordings for the Blind (see resource listing for info).

By And About Women With Disabilities

An interview with Marsha Saxton, co-editor of *With Wings*

Carrie: How would you describe *With Wings* and who is it for?

Marsha: It's a literary collection — of poetry, fiction, essays, and personal stories by women who have disabilities. It includes some well-known writers like Alice Walker, Muriel Rukeyser and Adrienne Rich and many unknown writers or writers who have had only a few things published. As far as who it's for — when we were editing the book and putting the volume together, we wanted the book to be for the widest audience possible, to include all readers, men and women, disabled and non-disabled, who might have some interest in disability issues and in feminism.

Carrie: Can you talk a little about what you think the impact of the book has been so far?

Marsha: Well, one thing I'm very excited about is that the book inspires other constituencies — besides the one represented in our book — to create their own anthologies. I've heard that there is a group of women of color who have disabilities who would like to create their own collection of poetry and fiction or whatever. That's just the kind of thing that we wanted to see happen, just the way *With the Power of Each Breath* functioned as a model for *With Wings* in terms of collecting poetry and fiction. We want to see many books spring out that bring women together that have a particular common experience — whether it's disability, race, class, background, sexual preference.

Carrie: One thing I've noticed is that "women with disabilities" seems to be such a hot topic these days.

Marsha: Yeah, it's true. I think historically, we're in a period where people with non-mainstream identities, people who before this point in history had to hide particular characteristics of themselves, are starting to

realize that having these "qualities" can be viewed in a positive way. That having a disability is not necessarily a bad thing; in fact, it can be a very important and wonderful thing and give you a unique perspective on the experience of being human and being a female.

Carrie: Before we talk about what's actually in the book, I wanted to talk about its inaccessibility. For example, the print was too small — I couldn't read it without getting headaches.

Marsha: Well, the book is on tape; it's available through the Recordings for the Blind.

Carrie: Now it is. But when I first was going to review this book, we called up Womyn's Braille Press and I think that was the first they'd ever heard of it. Did it come out on tape when the book came out?

Marsha: Well, there's always a lag time between when books are taped and when they're published. I wish that weren't true, but it takes a while for recordings to be made and distributed.

Carrie: There were other things besides the small print that made it quite inaccessible to read: one was how heavy it was, two was that I couldn't keep it open. I had to have somebody else turn back the pages for me and break the spine so it would stay open.

Marsha: Actually, one of the reviewers of the book from the *San Francisco Chronicle* made the suggestion that books be spiral-bound — and I think that's great. I wish all books could be easy to handle.

Carrie: Another accessibility problem I had was in understanding parts of the book, because it seemed very academic. That may just be due to the head injury I've had, but I did hear the same complaint from other people.



Jean Vallon

Marsha: When you say academic, I think what you might mean is literary, because there aren't academic pieces — the essays are not very sociologic or philosophic. The writing is geared to readers who are interested in literature.

Carrie: So, to focus on the content a little more, I wanted to talk about one essay that really upset me as a wheelchair user — it's "Lame" by Joyce Davies. Let me read this quote: "Even with an incorrect gait, frightening falls, and the speed of a tortoise, the upright approach beat years in a wheelchair." She also says, "We who walk with difficulty are primarily lame and far more fortunate than those thousands of men, women and children who cannot leave their wheelchairs at all." I tell you, these two things — I felt so attacked by them. My first thought was this: she's never spoken with someone who feels sorry for people who walk lamely because they don't have a fast wheelchair. But part of me felt so angry that I didn't want to review the book.

Marsha: We talk about Davies' perspective in the introductory material in the book, about being relaxed and accepting about having a disability versus being embarrassed or humiliated and trying to hide a disability. The point is that we don't feel there is a consciousness you can arrive at and then you're there and a clear and evolved disabled person, but rather that everybody's doing the best they can to figure out how they can handle the disability oppression or the attitudes that come at them — and also the ways that those attitudes are internalized by each person. And it's important for us to look at people in different places and with different attitudes about their disabilities.

some fear about being alone and she has the knowledge that some women have been killed and that she is very vulnerable as a disabled woman. But I think it's a very beautiful poem about being alone and feeling able to face that experience and feeling connected to other people. She also has a dog there who she feels she needs to depend on and trust — so, it's not so much about death as it is about life — being alone and facing life the way it is.

Adrienne Rich talks about the loss of a beloved friend — and that poem is very much about love, and closeness and connectedness and mourning. We included poetry about death because we wanted to include the breadth of human experience, including the experiences of children and babies who have some relationship to disability, into adulthood and relationships, into older years, and confronting the issues of death. So it was an attempt to put the lifespan in the context of disability.

Before we go, I wanted to mention something about the project I'm working on. It's called the Project on Women and Disability and is currently sponsored by the Boston Womens' Health Book Collective. We have twice a month community meetings to invite women with or without a disability to come and learn about the project and to get involved in some of our ongoing activities, like, for example, the radio show. We also had a potluck gathering of women with disabilities to set an agenda for the Boston area disabled women's movement. That was really a fun event.

The goals of the project are firstly to organize disabled women in the Boston area and Massachusetts to speak out and to develop projects of interest to represent issues of concern to us. Secondly, we want to raise the issue of disability in the women's

So, I don't share her particular perspective about using a wheelchair or about using adaptive equipment in general, but I think it's important to hear from her about what it's like for her. And that's why we included that piece and many others.

Carrie: That makes a lot of sense to me, but even aside from that piece, I found the book very depressing. After I had read the first half of it I felt so horrible about disability that I had to stop reading. Later, I did have parts of the last section of the book, "Transcendence," read to me and that was a lot better for me. But I still noticed there was an awful lot about death and dying and I wondered why that was.

Marsha: Well, I'm sorry you found the book depressing. I've heard from some women that they felt very reassured by having the chance to hear other women whose experiences resonated with their own — about the difficulties, the pain, the anger, the negative side of having a disability. Having these feelings expressed made them feel like they weren't alone. I'm sure other people like yourself found those pieces hard to read and painful. But which pieces are you referring to that are about death and dying?

Carrie: The one called "For a Paralyzed Woman Raped and Murdered While Alone in Her Own Apartment." And the poem by Adrienne Rich, "A Woman Dead in Her Forties." Then there's another poem called "Diminishment." As you look through the table of contents, it just seems like disability was portrayed in such a way that it was all negative. At the same time, I feel like other anthologies and tapes about disability don't include enough about death and the hard things.

Marsha: Well, in the poem "For a Paralyzed Woman..." — and also in the other poems you mentioned — death is present. But the "For a Paralyzed Woman" poem is really about a woman who is very much alive and about her relationship to herself. She has

community. We intend to provide training and technical assistance to women's organizations about accessibility and about attitudinal awareness so they can reach out to women with disabilities and include all women in their activities. We also want to help them support women who happen to have disabilities who are already leading, who are already involved in the women's movement — to identify themselves as disabled people and to lead as disabled women. The other goal is to raise the issue of sexism in the disability rights movement. It's still a very new issue. We want to help disability organizations understand how sex bias affects both men and women and limits the power of the movement.

Carrie: As far as the lesbian/gay community goes, I think awareness of disability issues is increasing, due in part to AIDS. On the other hand, sometimes I think AIDS is the only disability the gay community recognizes, and I think many people who have been disabled in one way or another by AIDS are still reluctant to identify themselves as disabled.

Marsha: Well, I think many movements haven't had much exposure to disability issues and haven't taken the issue on. And they need to — disability is an issue that's important to everybody. And the gay community needs to take initiative in learning about disability, realizing that AIDS as a disability is a catalyst for getting the gay community to begin to understand and take on the issues of disability in the broadest sense. □



Jean Vallon

Partial Listing of Resources

(The groups listed do not necessarily represent the politics of the author.)

Dykes, Disability and Stuff — new national quarterly newsletter. \$8-20 + a year for subscriptions. Braille and tape copies available through Womyn's Braille Press (see listing below). Make checks payable to and send inquiries to Catherine Lohr, P.O. Box 6194, Boston, MA 02114.

Disabled Lesbians — a Boston support group, monthly meetings. Info: Janet, (617) 524-1890.

Conference on Women and Disability — Anyone interested in helping to plan upcoming Boston event, call Janet at (617) 524-1890.

Dyke Diabetics — a Boston support group. Info: (617) 321-4254.

National Committee to Free Sharon Kowalski — organizing group working for self-determination for disabled lesbian Sharon Kowalski. 1725 17th St., NW, Rm. 515, Washington, D.C. 20009, (202) 667-3415. (Chapters exist all over the country.)

Women Determined to Free Sharon Kowalski — Boston chapter of national network. Info: (617) 522-7466.

Womyn's Braille Press — books on tape and in Braille. P.O. Box 8745, Minn., MN 55408, (612) 872-4352.

The Project on Women and Disability — see article for full description; c/o Office of Handicapped Affairs, One Ashburton Place, Boston, MA, (617) 727-7440 or 1-800-322-2020 (voice/TDD). Upcoming events listed below.

Lambda Resource Center for the Blind — recordings of books for lesbians and gay men. 3225 N. Sheffield, Chicago, IL 60657, (312) 274-0510.

Rainbow Alliance for the Deaf — lesbian and gay deaf and/or hearing impaired group. 3007 Park Way, Cheeverly, MD 20785.

With the Power of Each Breath — a disabled women's anthology published by Cleis Press, S.F., CA 1985. (See GCN, Sept. 28, 1986 for an interview with co-editor Debra Connors.) Available from Womyn's Braille Press — see above.

Deaf Women's Counseling Project, c/o Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge, MA 02138, (617) 354-8807.

Open discussion for deaf women with incest histories — meets at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge, MA 02138, (617) 354-8807. (A hearing woman with incest history does ASL interpretation) Wheelchair accessible via lift up to the first floor of the center.

The Disability Rag — bi-monthly national newspaper. P.O. Box 6453, Syracuse, NY 13217. \$9-12/one year, \$6/tight budget. Designate print edition or cassette tape edition.

Mental Patients Liberation Front, c/o Boston's Ruby Rogers Advocacy and Drop-in Center, (617) 876-4742.

Recordings for the Blind, 215 E. 58th St., NY, NY

10012, (212) 557-5720.

Boston Center for Independent Living — resources for disabled people to live independently in the community. Info: (617) 536-2187.

Boston Self-Help Center — peer counseling and support groups. Info: (617) 277-0080.

Disabled People's Liberation Front — Boston-based activist group. Includes lesbians and gay men. Info: 10 Ellett St., #309, Dorchester, MA 02122, (617) 825-7704.

Information Center for Individuals with Disabilities — central networking agency in Mass. on disability issues. Info: (617) 727-5540.

Office of Handicapped Affairs — Mass. state agency to advocate for legal rights, support services and accessibility. One Ashburton Place, Boston, MA 02108, (617) 727-7440.

Partners for Disabled Youth — Mass. agency that matches disabled youth and adults. Info: (617) 727-7440.

Mass. Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities — statewide advocacy organization, offers training resources. Info: (617) 734-7277.

Mass. Disability Law Center — offers legal representation for disabled people. Info: (617) 723-8455.

Deaf, Inc. — Mass. state agency to provide legal rights, support services and accessibility to deaf or hearing impaired people. Info: (617) 254-4041 (main office, TDD).

Upcoming Women's Events in Boston

(Sponsored by the Project on Women and Disability — all disabled and non-disabled women welcome; please do not wear perfume or scented products so that women with chemical sensitivities can attend.) Info: Marsha Saxton, (617) 727-7440, 1-800-322-2020 (voice/TDD) for info, or to request an interpreter or child care.

Sept. 29 — 5:30-7:30pm. — **Video on Karen Thompson**, lover of disabled lesbian Sharon Kowalski. One Ashburton Place, Boston.

Oct 1 — 9-4:30pm. — **Designing and Leading a Group**: By women, for women, about disability. Day-long training at Boston Women's Info. Center.

Oct. 25 — 5:30-7:30pm. — **Self-Defense for Disabled Women**. Kay Kanavino from the Boston Women's Self-Defense Collective will teach introductory skills. One Ashburton Place, Boston.

Oct. 29 — 10-2pm. — **Women and Disability** introductory workshop on the experiences of women with disabilities, approaches to involving disabled women in Boston area women's groups. Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge, MA.

Nov. 17 — 5:30-7:30pm. — **Women and AIDS** Francine Genn presents the National Women's Health Network's training as a basis for discussion of AIDS, sexuality and disability. One Ashburton Place, Boston.

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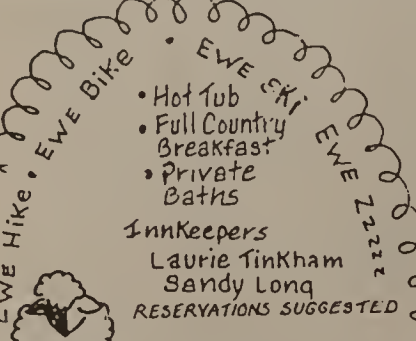
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Dykes to Watch Out For



No sparks

Continued from page 3

deliberate genocide," said the group is concerned with confronting oppression, as well as figuring out "health maintenance for people with depressed immune systems."

All of the panelists mentioned concerns that people of color, women and IV drug users are underrepresented in the AIDS activist movement. AIDS treatment issues were also discussed as a priority by all the group representatives. However, critics of the forum maintain that conflicts between the AIDS groups were smoothed over, and that some spokespersons painted falsely inclusive portraits of their groups. For example, despite the recent revelation that anti-gay Senate President William Bulger had been selected to serve on an honorary committee of the AAC's upcoming Aid and Comfort benefit, no one at the forum challenged Novick's assertion that AAC is concerned about fighting homophobia.

"I'm confused by that," Sullivan said. "How can you talk about Billy Bulger and fighting homophobia in the same breath? Maybe [AAC] thinks the epidemic doesn't affect homosexuals anymore, or that PWAs don't care where their money comes from."

"[Selecting Bulger] was a very poor choice," agreed Candeias. "I don't think it will do AAC any good in the long run." □

Victory House, a nurse from CIPED (a community program based at Boston City Hospital) and a consultant from AAC. The caseworkers have primary responsibilities for coordinating and evaluating MART services, whereas the CIPED nurse assesses, treats and counsels clients. The AAC consultant provides education to staff and clients about treatments, and coordinates referrals for extended services.

Scott said he felt the cooperative approach among Victory House, CIPED and AAC would foster "crucial links" in service provision needed to effectively battle HIV-infection and substance abuse. MART hopes to establish working relationships with a number of local gay-positive agencies, including the Fenway Community Health Center, Hospice West (the soon-to-open AIDS hospice in Mission Hill) and Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD).

"In summary," the program description explains, "MART recognizes the cruel and devastating dual stigma for any client in an alcoholism and drug treatment unit diagnosed with AIDS. MART is sensitive to the fears of the homeless, the pain and struggle of recovery, and the special emotional and healthcare needs of men and women with AIDS." □

MART

Continued from page 3

work."

Scott explained that most residential programs have little prior experience to prepare for the "traumatic, difficult and unpredictable consequences of HIV-infection." He said MART recognizes that HIV-infection affects everyone involved in substance abuse treatment settings. The program is intended to address:

- clients' anxiety, fears, anger and need for health care
- the stress and strain on direct line staff working with death and dying issues
- the pain of family, friends and significant others coping with their own anger and grief.

According to Scott, MART has developed a team approach in order to best provide direct care and information about community resources. The team consists of two full-time caseworker/advocates from

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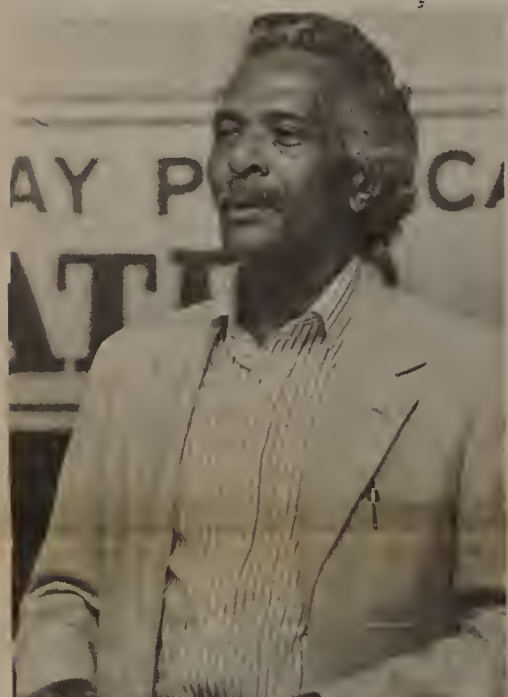
Continued from page 3

A third candidate, progressive lesbian Mimi Gerstell, withdrew from the race this summer when lesbian/gay political organizations in Boston failed to endorse her candidacy. GBL/GPA and MGLPC backed LoPresti instead, claiming he had the political clout and connections to best represent lesbian/gay interests on Beacon Hill.

Despite this development, which embittered some lesbians and gay men, LoPresti's campaign was apparently bolstered by progressive voters. He carried most of the votes in Cambridge and other more "liberal" parts of the district, while Travaglini captured a larger percentage of votes in East Boston, the hometown of both candidates. According to Steve Tierney, MGLPC co-chair, lesbian and gay backing of LoPresti was crucial to his strong showing at the polls.

"LoPresti acknowledged the hundreds of letters [of support] we sent out on his behalf," Tierney said. "His victory will be very helpful to the gay community. The Caucus [MGLPC] and the Alliance [GBL/GPA] can both take credit for demonstrating that gay and lesbian concerns are very important — we're not just empty political groups."

Other primary election results that may bode well for Bay State lesbians and gay men include the victories of Nelson Merced in the Fifth Suffolk House District and Peter Vellucci in the 29th Middlesex House District. Merced, a first-time candidate with



Susan Fleischmann

Filing snafu cost Royal Bolling election

a lengthy history of community activism, defeated five other contenders to nab the Democratic ballot spot in his district, a newly drawn area which includes parts of Dorchester and Roxbury. Merced relied on strong support from a multi-racial coalition that included lesbians and gay men. If elected in November, Merced will become the first Latino to serve in the Massachusetts legislature.

In a close race between two incumbents, Vellucci and Marie Howe, Vellucci nosed out Howe in the redrawn district encompassing Cambridge and Somerville. Progressives applauded the victory, calling the pro-gay, pro-feminist Vellucci a clear choice over the notoriously conservative Howe. Both GBL/GPA and MGLPC had endorsed Merced and Vellucci, and hailed their successes as further indication of the growing clout of the lesbian and gay community.

"Those are big victories for us," Gorton said. "The large turnout of lesbian and gay voters played a part — we were able to swing the votes, especially in Cambridge. Our increasing political sophistication is clear."

One election result that disappointed some lesbian and gay constituents was the defeat of Royal Bolling, Sr., incumbent senator in the Second Suffolk District. Bolling, who ran a last-minute sticker campaign because he neglected to properly place his name on the ballot, lost to former Senator Bill Owens, whose stance on lesbian and gay issues is uncertain. Bolling, who long sought to draw connections between Black and lesbian/gay struggles, had been a chief sponsor of the lesbian/gay rights bill and a strong friend in the Senate.

Gorton noted that Bolling won most of the areas in his district with a purportedly high lesbian and gay population — the South End, the Fenway and Jamaica Plain. "But," Gorton explained, "it was just insurmountable to win with a sticker campaign. But we think Owens will be an ally."

Added Tierney, "I can't imagine Owens would turn his back on a strong civil rights bill [the lesbian/gay rights bill]." □



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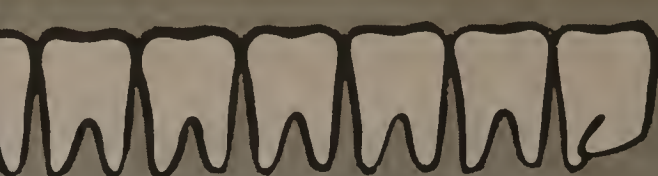


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Prisoners Seeking Friends

TO ALL THOSE, IN & OUT OF PRISON, WHO FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE.

Alexander Berkman, *Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist*

HELP! DICTIONARIES!!

If there's a SALE of cheap ones near you, how's about picking up a few for people (prisoners) who need one. Thanks!

MINORITY PRISON PROJECT & TRANSEXUALS IN PRISON (TIP) announce that they have moved to: MPP/TIP, 973 Sipes, Memphis TN 38127. We are looking for some office space and some people-power. Please contact John Gypsy Prowett at the above address and give us your support. Thank you.

TS PRISONERS!
You may write Anne Ogborn at her new address for helpful information. She is sometimes swamped with letters, so BE PATIENT!! Anne Ogborn, Box 15561, Shawnee Mission, KS 66214.

Prisoners United for Revolutionary Education (PURE) are Marxist-Leninist prisoners militantly struggling for people's conquest of political power. If you are for socialist revolution write to either: Alvaro Hernandez, 255735 Goree, Huntsville, TX 77344, or Ana Gelabert, 384484, Rt 4 Box 800, Gatesville TX 76528.

RIGHTS OF PRISONERS-FREE!!
Once again, the ACLU has FREE copies of the Rights of Prisoners available for prisoners. Write to: ACLU, 132 W.43rd, New York, NY 10036.



To begin with THANK the entire 'gang' there for my complimentary sub to your innovative paper! There are few papers that can compare to your trustworthy advocacy of 'our' cause. I am a 43 yr old Black male who particularly likes intimacy with young, sweet, effeminate human beings. I have done lots of traveling, can intellectualize and have average hopes and desires. Maybe someone would write(?) Billy M. McCoy, 75868 Camp C, Angola LA-70712.

Does Boston have a NAMBLA chapter? Please put my name on your penpal list, okay. I will be honest in my response. Mark BEHRING, 38708, Box 2800, Lincoln NE 68502.

GM would sincerely appreciate some decent conversation. Seeking sincere person to share feelings with. Gregory HOGLE, 312662, Rt 4 Box 1200, Rosharon TX 77583.



Hello, I'm a 22 yr old looking for anyone who has a good sense of humor, is open-minded and adventurous. Please send a photo if you can. Looking forward to hearing from you. Desiree NUNN, Box 7 — 119241, Shakopee MN 55379.

Bi-female seeking correspondence from both genders. Women particularly. Enjoy people of versatility, both intellectual and down to earth. Need outside support/concern. Brenda TAYLOR, 1034 Bragg St, Raleigh NC 27610.

I'm a kind, friendly person looking for a girlfriend. I like music, cooking, shopping, making love, buying gifts & flowers. I want a 50-50 love affair. Is there a female out there who wants to exchange thoughts for a long time? Patricia COLEMAN, A150479—159, PO Box 8540, Pembroke Pines FL 33024.

Seeking correspondence. Age and race not important. Having lived in the New Orleans French Quarter my enjoyments are endless. Seeking close and affectionate friendship. F. LeMIEUX, 4AL, PO Box 388, Gretna LA 70053



Gay prisoners in FLORIDA may write The Weekly News and ask for a copy of their gay newspaper (limited supply). TWN, 901 NE 79th St.#20, Miami FL 33138.

I'm currently serving a sentence for check forgery and am about to make parole (in TX or PA, if I can put together a jobs and housing plan). The board has stipulated 2 things: that I leave Okla. and that I don't come back! I've been locked up for 11 years and have no family or friends out there. Please help me make some contacts. Richard WEIGEL, Box 514—96127, Granite OK 73547.

Very attractive man would like to correspond with attractive TV-TS. Hobbies include handball, soft ball, swimming and those 'Hot summer nights'. Jack LECK II, 10495-006, PO Box 1500-AZ, El Reno OK 73036.

Looking for love! I am willing to relocate, reciprocate and appreciate. Young, good looking, physically fit, non-drinker, good attitude, high goals. Come on, see for yourself. You may be missing out. Jim INGRAM, 87288-12BKS, PO Box 600, Grady AR 71644.

As a prisoner here in the Okla. system I believe I am aware of the meaning of discrimination and harassment against gay people. We are referred to as 'AIDS packing Queers'. If we get any jobs at all, they are the garbage details. I was surprised when I saw my first copy of your newspaper and its recognition of the existence of gay prisoners and our special double struggle. I would be very grateful if you would run a penpal ad for me. Danny WRIGHT, 90110, Box 514, Granite OK 73547.

GM looking for a friend out there. Am alone and without family. I need someone out there to make this hell on earth easier to bare. Timothy DIVERS, 155828, FCC 4-D-03, 1012 W. Columbia, Farmington MO 63640.

Would like to hear from all fems, passives, and TVs. Swimmers build. Good companion. Varied interests. No prisoners please. Jerry GILLESPIE, 129-350, PO Box 56, Lebanon OH 45036.

ARTISTIC prisoner who does fine work on paper or handkerchiefs wants to hear from any people that aren't afraid of spice in their life. I only desire someone to share good thoughts, dreams and bits of despair. Possibly I could also find a market (flea-market, shops?) for my art thru you? Please write. Steven CLEMENTS, 364313, Box 16, Lovelady TX 75851.

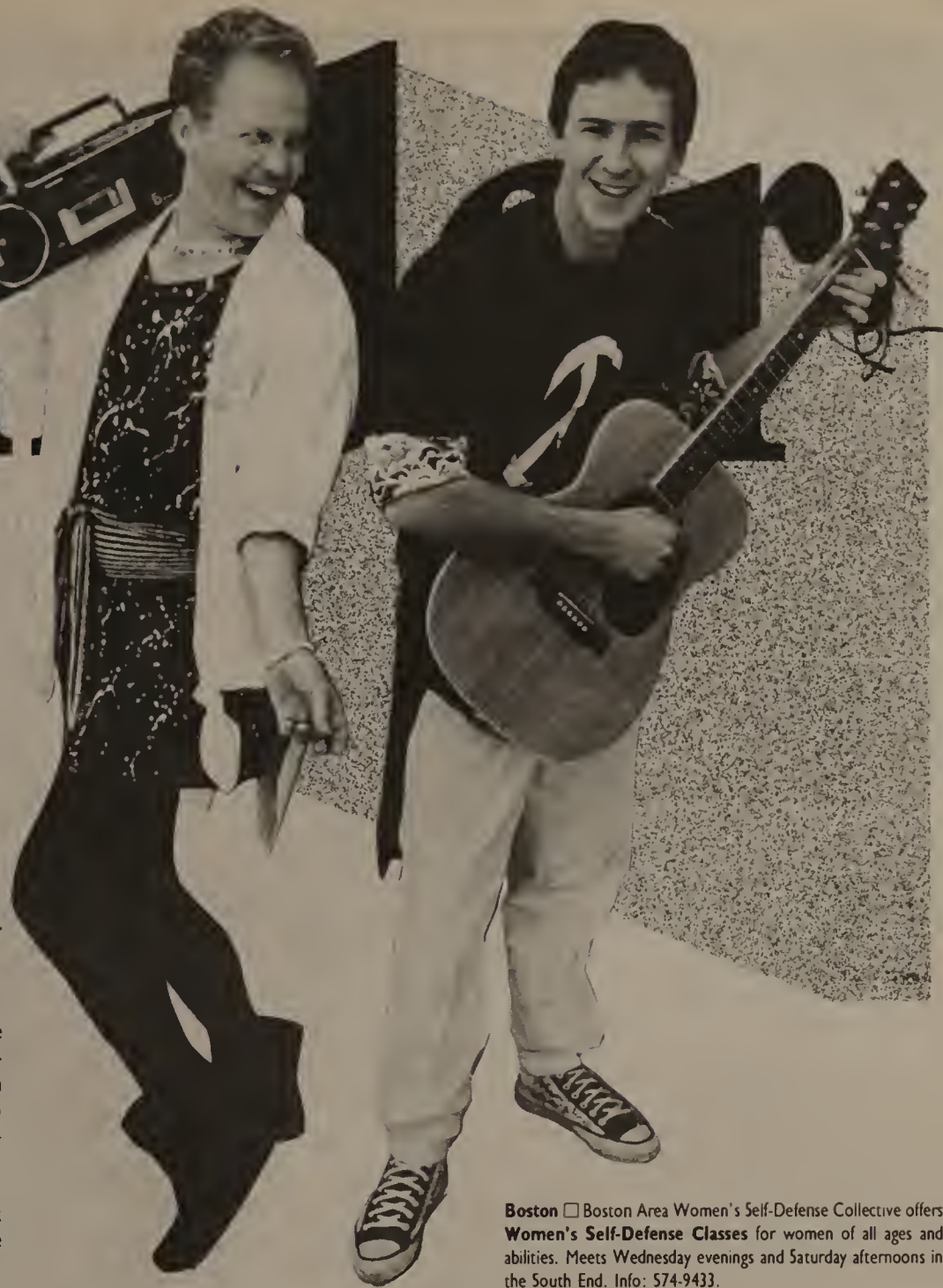
TARRY DOBSON, please write. Wm Maitre, 650485 (D-217-T), Box 99 (154), Clermont FL 32711.

Soft complexion, into music, reading, writing, nice times, tasteful porno, cooking, water skiing, antiques and a variety of other things. Charles GAINS, Box 137, Tillery NC 27887

My family knows I am 'gay' and only my mom really excepts it. I don't receive letters at all though I call my mom once a month. I would like very much for someone of my kind of people to write me to help keep me thinking good thoughts. James MELTON, A808286-008, PO Box 279, E. Palatka FL 32031.



Calendar



October ☐ Singing/songwriting duo Romanovsky & Philips, the Sonny & Cher of the gay male performance scene, strut their stuff at Mass. Art's Tower Auditorium. Info: 266-5443.

Please note: Calendar listings must be received by the Monday before the week of the event. Photos with listings are encouraged.

24 Saturday

Townsend ☐ **Gaylaxian** Science Fiction Society's monthly meeting. 1pm. Info: PO Box 1051, Back Bay Annex, Boston, MA 02117.

25 Sunday

Jamaica Plain ☐ **Lesbian and Gay Neighbors** in conjunction with Chiltern Mountain Club **apple-picking** at Deershorn Apple Farm. Afterwards, picnic at Wachusett Mountain. 11am. Info and ride-sharing: Joe 522-9505.

Boston ☐ **Nice Jewish Girls** potluck. Support/discussion group for Jewish lesbians. Info: Lisa 666-2159.

Boston ☐ **Rock Against Sexism** disc party/T-dance. 1270 Boylston St. 6-10pm. \$2 (\$1 before 7pm).

Boston ☐ Meeting of Boston-area **Unitarian-Universalist Gays and Lesbians**. Topic: "Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Parenting: Making Choices." Arlington St. Church, 351 Boylston St. 7pm. Info: 536-7050.

Quabbin Reservoir ☐ **Dignity/Integrity** of Central Mass. apple-picking and picnic. Meet at St. Mark's. 1pm. Info: Roger 508/755-7067.

Cambridge ☐ **Newoman Potluck Dinner**. For women new, or not so new, to the area. Showing of "Desert Hearts" following. The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 6pm. Info: 354-8807.

Cambridge ☐ **Book-signing party** to celebrate the publication this month of "Looking at Gay and Lesbian Life" by Warren Blumenfeld and Diane Raymond. To benefit the Gay and Lesbian Speakers Bureau. Phillips Brooks House, Harvard Yard. 2-5pm. Info: 354-0133.

Brookline ☐ Brookline, Brighton, Allston **Lesbian Potluck**. 6pm. Info: .

Boston ☐ **Boston's Other Voice** special guest Brian McNaught on "coming out." With host Peter Stickel. WROR 98.5FM. 11:30pm.

26 Monday

Jamaica Plain ☐ **Angry Initiatives/Defiant Strategies** presented by GCN and Deep Dish T.V. Network. An Hour of clips from AIDS-related videos. J.P. Firehouse, 659 Centre St., 7:30pm. Wheelchair accessible. \$2. Info: 426-4469.

Cambridge ☐ **Lesbian Rap** topic: "PMS-Premenstrual Syndrome." The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-10pm. Free. Info: 354-8807 (TTY/voice).

Boston ☐ Boston **Bisexual Women's Network** monthly Volunteer Night. Meet new people, stuff newsletters, do BBWN projects, munch out. All women welcome. 7:30pm. Info: 247-6683.

27 Tuesday

Cambridge ☐ **Bisexual Women's Rap**. See 9/20 listing.

Boston ☐ **Gay and Lesbian Speakers Bureau** monthly meeting. Topic: "Dealing with the Silently Hostile in Your Audience: How to Get Them (Safely) to Express Themselves." 25 Ridgeway Lane, Beacon Hill. 7pm. Info: 367-3946.

Boston ☐ Massachusetts Lesbian and Gay Bar Association **cocktail party**. New members especially welcome. Claddagh Restaurant, 335 Columbus Ave. 5:30pm. Info: 734-6720.

28 Wednesday

Boston ☐ **Boston NOW** Lesbian Rights Task Force meeting. 971 Commonwealth Ave. 7pm. Free. Info: 782-1056.

Cambridge ☐ **Lesbian Partners of Incest Survivors**. The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8:15-9:15pm. Free. Info: 354-8807 (TTY/voice).

Boston ☐ **Panel discussion** "Sex, Abortion, and the Rehnquist Court: Constitutional Rights in Political Transition." At the quarterly meeting of the Greater Boston Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance. ASL-interpreted. 25 Beacon St. (Unitarian Universalist Ass'n.). 7pm. Free. Info: 262-2381.

Cambridge ☐ **"Say It, Sister!"** discussion of "Black Women's Health." Host Kim Motylewski, with Bylye Avery. WMBR, 88.1FM. 7-8pm.

Boston ☐ **NAMES Project** meeting to coordinate plans to bring the AIDS Quilt to Washington. Piemonte Rm., City Hall, Congress St. entrance. 7pm.

Boston ☐ **Vusisizwe Players** from South Africa present "You Strike the Woman, You Strike the Rock." Through 10/2. Suffolk University, Walsh Theater, 55 Temple St. 8pm. \$12. Info: 424-1411.

30 Friday

Brookline ☐ Join **Am Tikva** for a Simchat Torah program with Metropolitan Community Church: "Rejoicing in the Torah-Rejoicing in our Traditions." Bring something sweet to share. All welcome. Workmen's Circle, 1762 Beacon St. 8pm. Info: 782-8894.

Stowe, VT ☐ **Foliage bicycling** — 50-70 miles a day with Chiltern Mt. Club. Lodging at gay Buccaneer Lodge. Through Oct. 2. Info: Bob, (617) 266-3812.

Cambridge ☐ **Made in Boston** multi-company dance theatre concert. Producer/director Peter Heffernan. Fitzgerald Theater, Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School, 459 Broadway. (Also Oct. 1) 8:15 pm. \$13, \$10 students, seniors. Info: 491-7377.

October 1 Saturday

New Bedford ☐ **"Reachin' Out" Conference** sponsored by Alliance of Gays, Lesbian and Supporters of the Greater New Bedford/ Fall River area. Unitarian Church. 9-4:30pm. Registration: \$15-30 includes lunch. Info: Patrick, (508) 990-8280.

Boston ☐ **Romanovsky and Phillips in concert** in the Tower Auditorium, Mass. College of Art, 625 Huntington Ave. 8pm. \$8/advance, \$10/door. Info: 266-5443.

Fryeburg, ME ☐ **Caribou Mt. day hike** with the Chiltern Mt. Club. Info: Michael, (617) 522-9194 or (207) 883-6934.

Boston ☐ **Hoedown Country Dance** sponsored by Dignity/Boston. St. John the Evangelist Church. 7:30-11pm. Liturgy at 6:30pm. \$5 at door. Chicken and drinks provided, potluck salads, etc. Info: 536-6516.

Cambridge ☐ **Weaving Stories** and songs to benefit Renewal House, shelter and hope for women. With storyteller Elisa Pearlmain and folksinger Sue Kranz. First Congregational Church. 11 Garden St. \$5-\$15. Info: 566-6881.

Boston ☐ **South End Open Studios** offers a day of studio visiting, dance, music and theater performances. 539 Tremont. 11-5pm. Free. Info: (508) 443-8871.

2 Sunday

Cambridge ☐ **Reading** from "Testimonies," new anthology of coming out stories edited by Sarah Holmes. New Words Bookstore, 186 Hampshire St. 3-5pm. Info: 876-5310.

Roxbury ☐ **In Memory of Rosie Jimenez — Our Struggle Continues**, an event to remember the life of the first woman known to die from a back alley abortion after federal funding for abortion was cut off in 1976. Rm. 300, Student Ctr., Roxbury Community College. 7-8:30pm. Wheelchair accessible, ASL interpreted, bilingual Spanish/ English. Children welcome. Sponsored by Comite de Mujeres Puertorriquenas-Miriam Lopez Perez, Women for Economic Justice, Alliance Against Women's Oppression.

Cambridge ☐ **Lesbian potluck**. Meet your neighbors! New group holding monthly potlucks. 5:30pm. Info: Wendy, 547-2251.

Boston ☐ **Lesbian academic group**. Academics, artists present, perform and discuss work-in-progress. 7:30pm. Info: 924-7954.

Boston ☐ **Living with AIDS Theater Project** discussed by Martin Anderson on Boston's Other Voice with host Peter Stickel, 98.5 FM, WROR. 11:30pm.

3 Monday

Springfield ☐ **Parents and Friends** of Lesbians and Gays meeting at the Wesson Memorial Unit of Baystate Medical Center, 140 High St. 7pm. Info: 786-5079, 781-2990.

Cambridge ☐ **Boston Bisexual Women's Network** meeting at the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 7:30pm. Info: 247-6683 (BIS-MOVE).

6 Thursday

Boston ☐ **Boston Les/Gay Pride Committee** meeting, Rm. 801, City Hall. New members welcome. 7pm. Info: Matthew Hayes, 232-1716.

7 Friday

Manchester, N.H. ☐ **New Hampshire Gay Parents** meeting. 7:30pm. Info: (603) 478-5437.

8 Saturday

Boston ☐ **Coffeehouse** with Catie Curtis, folk/women's music. Arlington St. Church. 8-11pm. \$3.50 suggested donation. No alcohol or tobacco. Info: Lori Kenschaft, 547-5209.

Amherst ☐ **Unity and Diversity** conference. Les/gay/bisexual gathering with theme: Wellness in our Community. Through Oct. 9. Hampshire College, co-sponsored by Hampshire Women's Center. Info or to volunteer, write Box 662, Hadley, MA 01035.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Saturday

Boston ☐ **Living With AIDS Theatre Project** presents a workshop to collect the experiences and stories of those connected in any way with the AIDS crisis. The goal is to create a theater music piece based on the workshop material. No performance experience necessary. Club Cabaret, 209 Columbus Ave. 10:30am.

Boston ☐ Boston Area Women's Self-Defense Collective offers **Women's Self-Defense Classes** for women of all ages and abilities. Meets Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons in the South End. Info: 574-9433.

Boston ☐ **Gay Boston**, a cable program with Candace Van Auken. Boston Neighborhood Network, channels A3 and A8. 7:30-8pm.

Sunday

Boston ☐ Metro Healing presents **healing group** for PWAs and all those wishing to be of support. Metropolitan Health Club aerobics room, 209 Columbus Ave. 7:30-9:30pm. Info: Brian 267-1154, Joseph 357-6926.

Monday

Boston ☐ **Women's Rugby Club** fall practice every Monday and Wednesday. 6-8pm. No experience necessary. Info: Mel 536-4943, message 932-5401.

Cambridge ☐ **Lesbian Rap**. The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-10pm. Free. Info: 354-8807 (TTY/voice).

Tuesday

Providence, RI ☐ **ACT-UP/Rhode Island** has meetings open to the public. Rocket, 73 Richmond St. 7pm. ACT-UP/RI, PO Box 3156, Wayland Square Station, Providence, RI 02906. Info: Bill 617/782-9063.

Camb ☐ **Bisexual Women's Rap**. The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 7:30-10pm. Free. Info: 354-8807 (TTY/voice).

Wednesday

Boston ☐ **Women's Self-Defense Classes** for women of all ages and abilities. See Saturday listing.

Cambridge ☐ **Lesbian AI-Anon** with childcare. The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 6:30-8pm. Free. Info: 354-8807 (TTY/voice).

Cambridge ☐ **MASS ACT OUT** meeting. M.I.T., Building 66, Rm. 126. 7:30pm. Info: 661-7737.

Boston ☐ **Women's Rugby Club**. See Monday listing.

Thursday

Boston ☐ **GCN's production night**. All welcome. Proof-reading starts at 5pm. Paste-up after 7pm. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington & Back Bay T-stops. Info: **GCN**, 426-4469.

Friday

Boston ☐ **GCN mailing**. Come help stuff the paper and meet new friends. 5pm to 10pm. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington & Back Bay T-stops. Info: **GCN**, 426-4469.

Worcester ☐ **AIDS Project** — Worcester **support group** meets for HIV positive, PWA's, PWARC's, lovers, friends, and the worried well. Open to all lesbians and gay men regardless of HIV status. 51 Jackson St. 7-9pm. Info: Dana, 508/755-3773.

Boston ☐ **Healing group** for PWAs and all those wishing to be of support. Santa Fe Hair Salon, 528 Tremont St. 7:30-9:30pm. Info: Brian 267-1154, Joseph 357-6926.

Cambridge ☐ **Women's Coffeehouse**. The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8pm-midnight. Info: 354-8807 (TTY/voice).

CALENDAR COMPILED BY
TODD HOLLISTER

By Stephanie Poggi

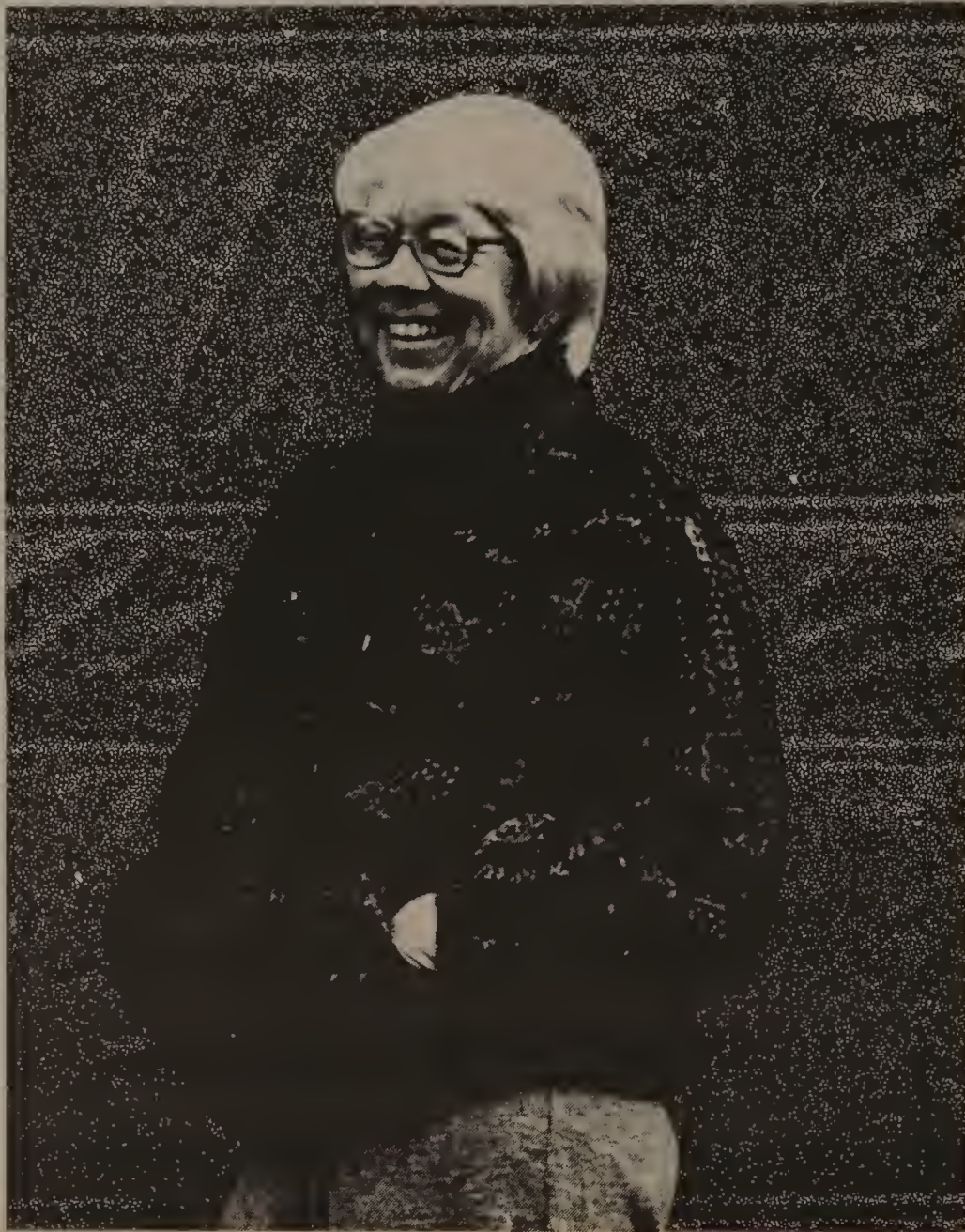
FT. BRAGG, Calif. — Baba Copper, author of the recently released *Over the Hill: Reflections on Ageism Between Women*, died during the first week of September at the age of 69. According to Crossing Press, publisher of Copper's book, she had been sick for some time, but had been recovering and remained active writing, speaking and conducting workshops about ageism.

One of the few feminist works on the topic, Copper's *Over the Hill*, continues breaking new ground in the tradition of *Look Me in the Eye: Old Women, Aging and Ageism*, by Barbara Macdonald and Cynthia Rich (Spinsters Ink, S.F., 1983). The collection of essays gathered here, written primarily over the last four years, discusses "the fear and loathing of old age which saps so much of all women's energy." Focusing in particular on the lesbian community, Copper pulls together many strands of this fear and loathing. She exposes the passing for younger that is part of all female experience, and the enforced isolation of old lesbians — depriving the lesbian community of energy and experience, while denying self-respect and meaningful interaction to old lesbians.

Copper talks about coming out at age 51, "walking away from the ground which women usually try to hold on to," only to find that she was entering another unexpected "state of marginality...the stigma accorded to age in women." Asking who profits from ageism in the lesbian community, Copper challenges younger women's control of power in the movement. She says, "The personality I feel I am being asked to assume as an old woman is even more docile/submissive than that asked of me as a young woman throughout my life with men."

Ageism may be difficult to fight, she adds, not only because old lesbians have largely been denied real say in the movement's agenda, but also because — unlike other oppression — that based on age "steals upon us gradually, invading the defenses carefully constructed against it." She notes that the negative experiences we have as we get older can render women in-

Baba Copper, 69, pioneer in battle against ageism



Baba Cooper

creasingly self-hating, and that women in their forties and fifties are often the most vicious in dealing with women older than themselves.

Copper describes touch deprivation as another way old women are excluded from the lesbian community, saying, "Touch is not a fringe benefit of youth, it is a human necessity." But because many young lesbians see old lesbians as non-sexual or are afraid "of being misunderstood" they refuse to touch, thereby refusing both sexual and friendship touch.

Copper's analysis of ageism between women points in part to the ways all old women are regarded as mother figures by young women. Mothers, they have been taught, are fair prey, people whose job it is to give and not to get. Young lesbians may also see mothers as representing the self-defeating traditional values they have struggled to reject in themselves.

Another fascinating element of Copper's book is her discussion of the role commonly pushed on grandmothers: that of patient caretakers of their children's children, servers who never assert their own wishes. She also points out how easy it is to view grandmothers with a false nostalgia, as symbols for vague ideas about an old-fashioned, simpler time.

She concludes with an account of the enormously inspiring First West Coast Conference By and For Old Lesbians. "Not older. Not elder. Just like it is — old." The gathering of 200 lesbians offered the extraordinary experience of communal resistance to the stereotypical expectations of old women.

Copper tells us that she had made a pledge when she found herself going "over the hill" — metaphorically out of sight — to "learn to articulate the great complexity of the experience of ageism as it takes place between women." Her brave work has contributed enormously to the foundation of this project still virtually untouched by feminism.

Over The Hill is paperback, 98 pages, and costs \$7.95. ☐ filed from Boston

Rally 'Round the Quilt!

The AIDS Memorial Quilt will be in Washington on October 8th and 9th as part of the National AIDS Awareness and Education Weekend, and 500 volunteers from the New England NAMES Project are going to Washington to help with the display. Join us at a send-off rally on Tuesday, October 4, from 5:30 to 7:30 PM in City Hall Plaza.

There'll be entertainment, raffle drawings, and speakers, including Cleve Jones, founder of the NAMES Project. For a complete rally schedule and a list of Washington weekend events, call 395-5477. To be a volunteer, call the NAMES Project New England at 451-9003.

THE
NAMES
PROJECT



AGAIN.

Applications for employment are now being accepted. Please apply in person at 51 Stuart Street in Boston, Mondays and Tuesdays from 4pm until 7pm, and Saturdays from 1pm until 4pm.